

The greatest pop songwriters ever



Comment

Suzanne Moore: 'Call me Ms Moral'

page 23



The Tabloid

London: just how cool?

Faith-healing in America; Clinton has the touch

Phoenix, Anzona

The message, or rather the messages, may be different this time, subtly changed to suit the audience of the hour. But the messenger is not. The blueand-gold seal ceremoniously affixed to the rostrum at every stop may read "President of the United States of America". But Bill Clinton - just as four vears ago, just as always - is doiog what he loves most and

does best. Campaigning.
This of course is his last hig tour (the constitution forbids more than two terms) but he still dives into ethnic diners to wolf down chicken with his aides, and still presses flesh for 15 minutes after each stump appearance. This barn-storming finale to his electoral ca-reer could he his first campaign for governor in Arkansas I8 years ago, or his hravura performance io New Hampshire in 1992 (hrilliantly fictionalised in the novel Primary Colors). Clinton draws voltage from a crowd; he fuses its energy with his own.

The ruddy face with the close-coiffed silver hair beams from the furthest corner of the arena. No matter the meaningless gash of words, about "bridges to the 21st century" or the habble of statistics about pre-qualification schemes for single mothers who want to set up a business. It is the cadence of the words which matters, not what they mean. Clinton's condeet of government may be question ble, but as a camauguer he is mesmeric.

With five days to polling day, the President is having a and whe not ! Hundwime re-election next Tuesday seems a foregone conclusion. Everywhere his crowds are boisterous, not just because they're on the winning side, but because they are in communion with Bill Clinton, the some-time sinner made saint. "Oh God, You've got to helieve it, I touched him." a girl gasped to the throng around the President in the Denver Coliseum. more usually the home of eattle auctions and rodeos, but this evening site of a presidential

At each event, such tension shoes are replaced by cowboy single state-losing streak in Corral, the Grand Canyon and far-right militiamen who thrive



President Clinton reaching out to give supporters the personal touch this week on the campaign trail in Minneapolis

as arises is provided by a to-ken handful of hecklers, but Clinton cao deal with them in his sleep. Half a dozen turned up in Denver. "Every dog has a lew fleas," grinned the President. "With their side's record, no wonder they're

As always Clinton plays his cards shamelessly. Aboard Air Force One on its its 3,000-mile aerial Odyssey westward, this chameleon of politicians Meeting with the people of chaoges colours anew. Somewhere high above the prairie.

How fiction caught the true colours of the President "I've seen him do it two million times now, or emotional, he will lock in and honour campaign by Anonymous (later revealed

but I couldn't tell you how he does it, the right-handed part of it - the strength, quality, duration of it, the rudiments of pressing the flesh ... If he doesn't know And he will mean it." you all that well, and you've just told him

something 'important', something earnest ars, the novel about the 1992 election treatment ever put on paper".

boots, and the drawling accent thickens. For the first time since 1948. Harry Truman's times. The a Democrat may eveo carry Arizona of legend is a frontier land of rattlesnakes, the OK Arizona, hreaking the longest

you with a two-hander, his left hand overwhelming you with his wrist and forearm. He'll flash that famous misty look of his. ... From the opening scene of Primary Col-

as the Newsweek journalist Joe Klein). The narrator is describing an encounter with Governor Jack Stanton, the Clintonesque candidate. The New York Times described it as "the best word-picture of the Clinton

Much has changed here since Goldwater. It has turned into ers worried about Medicare, to women alarmed by the Republicans' anti-abortion absoso we're making progress. lutism, and to small husinesses

Photograph: Win McNamee/Reuters

turned Phoenix into the ninth CONTENTS largest city in the couplry.

Almost never does he meotion Bob Dole by came, "My opponent" is the usual desigoation, or "my distinguished op-poneot" when a harb is on the way. Figures showing that the that inflation was minimal were hailed by Mr Dole as proof of the worst economy in 20 years". Ah, the President said, "two weeks ago he said il was the worst economy in 100 years,

corst economy in 100 years, e're making progress."

Clinton profile, page 22

Clinton profile, page 22

School shuts as teachers run from menacing pupils

Barrie Clement and Colin Brown

The "out of control" Ridings. school in Yorkshire was closed vesterday following aflegations of affacts, on staff including a tusal to reach disruptive pupils sevum essault on a woman-

The Galities school, the secday and Wednesday who had been called in to find out what before it closed the school. was wrong with the school. They had witnessed an attack on a briefed Mrs Shephard on the

Closure of Ridings and of Manton primary school in Nottinghamshire - brought about by indiscipline and teachers' re-- are unprecedented in recent educational history. Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for oud to be closed because of in-discipline within three days. Education, said inspectors had told local officials on Wednesdescribed even turther towards day that pupils at the school affarchy despite the presence of could be in physical danger.

Some imment inspectors on Tuesucation authority some 24 hours

was "out of control". The Ofsted document, which will be published next Wednesday, will point out that there was no reg-ister to assess the number of children attending the school each day. It is not clear whether they will dectare Ridings a "failing" school, take it nut of the cootrol of the local authority and send in a "hit squad" of government-appointed teachers. The woman alleged to have been attacked by a 15-year-old boy, was believed to be a young

Union of Women Teachers, voted overwhelmingly to strike unless 12 pupils were expelled.

Nigel de Gruchy, the unioo's general secretary, said he was staggered but not surprised" by the news that education officials were warned on Wednesday about the deteriorating situation at the Ridings, but took oo action until yesterday. This bears out everything I have been saying that the teachers have been asking for support from managers hut not getting any."

teacher by a pupil while they were at the school.

main findings of their report, are members of the National As-which eschool sociation of School Masters anything was done. He said his authority to call a strike anything members wanted 12 pupils excluded in order to preserve acceptable standards of health and safety at the school. Nothing less would prevent them walking out

a Califoroia of the desert,

where the votes which matter

belong not to ranchers or the

on strike he said. lan Jennings, Chief Educa-tion Officer of Calderdale, who ordered the closure of the school said, he hoped it would be reopened next Wednesday by which time a new headteacher and associate headteacher

The result of the NASUWT "It took an emergency union meeding today and a plea for distributed and 31 returned all

within the next 28 days, provided they give a week's notice

of their intention to walk out. But some parents have laid the blame for disturbances at the door of teachers. Linda McDermott, whose sons Dennis, 13, and Steven, 15

are at present excluded from the Ridings, condemned the closure as "ridiculous". She said: "I think the teachers are being pathetic - they just don't seem to be able to cope. I was expecting something like this. The nuly way to go forward from here is to start again with new teachers."

Feud stops viewing

A bitter personal foud between Rupert Mordoch and Ted Turn-

er, two of the world's most

powerful media figures, means

that British television viewers

will not be able to see a new

Pompidou closure

The Pompidou Centre for con-

temporary art in Paris, open for

only 20 years, is to shut most of

its galleries for two years from

the end of next year. Page 14

channel.

.. CRISIS IN ... CENTRAL

What has been described as a 'tragic human river 25 kilometers long is desperately fleeing the fighting in Zaire. Such is their panic that thousands of refugees are even returning to Rwanda, the country they fled unly

Innocent men, women and children who thought they had escaped the bloodshed now face misery again. With fear and desperation comes disease and starvation. Food supplies will last just a few more days. The Red Cross urgently needs

your help to provide vital food, clean water and medical aid. Phone now to give your donation or complete the coupon below. Please give as much as you can, just £25 will help provide an entire family with food and clean water. Your money can help the Red Cross save lives.

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Disaster police win right to sue Lord Justices Rose and Hen- the force's failure to cut off ac-

French supply teacher.
The school's 33 teachers, who

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Police officers who suffered ing that has huge implications.

furious. Eddie Spearntt, whose gued that the roles of the four 14-year-old son was crushed to death, said: "Thousands of plus a fifth who lost her appeal ordinary people who had gone to watch a tootball match to damages. end up being life-savers and

while those whose job it was get compensation."

The victory for four officers - and up to 17 others with simpsychological illness as a tesult - dar cases in the pipeline who are of helping thing football for at expected to benefit - was in the 1989 Hillshorough disaster stark contrast to the experience yesterday wenthe legal right to of many relatives of the compensation likely to reach tragedy's 96 victims, whose 22m in a Coar! of Appeal rul compensation claims failed.

South Yorkshire police had Relatives of those killed were admitted negligence but had arin the immediate aftermath -- was too remote to entitle them

they're entitled to nothing. High Court ruling last year, or in a makeshift mortuary.

could have significant implications for future compensation claims by those whose jobs involve the Irauma of confrooting

disaster. While one of the three judges dissented, they all refused leave for an appeal to the House of Lords, though the force later said it was likely to petition the law lords for permission.

The officers Constable Mark of relatives and the hostility of Bairstow, 46, PC Anthony the crowd made the tragedy Beavis, 48, PC Geoffrey Glave, 46, and Inspector Henry White all suffered post-traumatie stress disorder after tending to The decision, incrturning a the dead and dying on the pitch

ry ruled that officers in their position must be compensated because they were "primary victims", either as "rescuers" or as employees the force had "negligently" exposed to the risk of psychiatric injury. Lord Jus-tice Henry said the helplessness felt by the officers, the sheer oumber of deaths, the distress

"something quite unique".

The judge said that exposure to injury was a fact of police life but there were no "public policy" reasons why the officers should not be compensated for

everfull when a gate was opened. The officers' solicitor, Simon Allen of Russell Jones & Walk-

er, who handled the cases for the Police Federation, said the ruling showed that members of the emergency services were not just "cannon fodder" and had a right to be protected from official negligence.
The ruling follows the £1.2m

out-of-court settlement reached last June with 14 other ufficers who had fought to rescue Liverpool fans to the pens at the Sheffield ground.

Analysis, page 2

Very few MPs arouse in me such visceral hostility as does the Govemment's new "Exchequer Secretary" (when did that job get created?), young Philip Oppenheim. For years Phil has been described, by the desperate young ladies of the rapidly shrinking Young Conservatives. as the hottest piece of male totty in the Tory Party. He is sexier even than Brian Mawhinney.

With every visible skin surface covered in Perma-tan, hlond flair swept back to try and disguise a hald spot whose eventual victory is certain and Philip Schofield teeth. Mr Oppenheim's sixth-form voice and Jemima Goldsmith accent have always got right up my nose. He reminds me of a junior doctor



DAVID AARONOVITCH

in a particularly unconvincing hospital soap, transmitted by a cheap cable company. So what I am about to say pains me deeply. For yesterday, on his debut appearance on the Treasury front bench. Oppenheim won. This contection of sharp suits. ideological vacuity and Thatchcrite triumphalism managed to ...

as it was his. In July the slogan "New Labour, New Danger" was dropped into almost every junior ministerial speech, reply or press release. It drove everyone mad, not least because it was so pointless. Who, other than a catatonic handful of fellow MPs, was going to hear such preposterous parrotings? They would not be shown on television or reported in newspapers. Yet they managed to lower the standard of discourse from an already subterranean level. One began to wonder whether many Tories were not on some bizarre form of piece rate.

Now it's Labour's turn, with

paign, this phrase was being tested to destruction by frontberich spokesthings, one of the al-legedly brightest of whom, Alan Milburn (Darlington), was - like Oppenheim - making his debut. With his thick hair slicked back à la Mandelson, Mr Milburn is the very model of a modern Labour general, and he rose to tell Kenneth Clarke, as Gordon' Brown had the day before, that Britain was ninth in something and eleventh in something else. And that therefore, "Enough is

clapsed before the number four on the Treasury team, Mike the one they always show on the

that "Enough is Enough!" Now I have met Mr O'Brien; he is a relatively thoughtful man, but here he was acting like some hrain-dead backbencher. Why?

The answer became apparent

later, during Prime Minister's Question Time. Tony Blair, caressing the dispatch box as is his wont (I know at least one journalist who fantasises about taking " place of that box), had ed his two forensic s about BSE - designed to remind us all of last spring's nough"t Tory posturing about forcing
Barely five minutes had Europe to eat our beef - and

look authentic when compared their new hit, "Enough is with some of the men opposite.

This was as much their fault agency for the autumn cambre of the men opposite.

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This was as much their fault agency for the autumn cambre of the men opposite. why", he thundered, "the peo-ple of this country are saying Enough is Enough." As he repeated it, I felt my brain swell up inside my skull.

John Major - sensing the mood - was deep in synthetic dudgeon. The Labour leader was guilty of "irrelevant, juvenile sloganising", he retorted. Presumably "New Labour, New Danger" (with which the PM: went along quite happily), was somehow relevant, adult and analytical - a proper slogan. Up stood Mr John Austin

Walker (Labour, Woolwich), a man lacking in what condom makers would call "supreme sensitivity". "Enough is was moving in for the killer bite: Enough", he said. Hnnnng-

significant shorts

Homeless help Schizophrenia reaches out of risk rises for London

Funding to help the "hard cort" who sleep rough in the streets is to be extended to towns and cities outside London, the housing minister, David Curry, said

Some £23m carmarked for me Government's six-yearold Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) will be used to tackle the problem outside the capital. The move follows a survey by the homeless charity Shelter commissioned

by the Government. Grants will be made to the of unitary sectors in Bath, commenced Cambridge Hountendan, Camoringe, Gaing, Entite, Lettester, Manchester, Nedingham, Offord and Richardsol-aptin-Thames. The RSI will also be exempted in London and a new RSI zone will be created

in Brighton.
However, the measures
were criticised by Louise Casey, Shelter's director of housing. She said: "These resources will only tackle the risible side of Britain's homeless problem. In January we will have the worst housing att ever past coming into operation. This will mean people have less access to permanent housing." James Cusick

Antiques may escape gun Bill Antique weapons are to be excluded from the Bill banning high-calibre handguns to be published

Background guidance to the Bill will enable collectors to keep antique weapons such as duelling pistois. The Home Office is considering appeals from shooters to allow First and Second World

War guns to escape the ban. last night that it may oppose any widening of the mptions, but the move... may relieve some pressure from the Government forhigher compensation from the gun industry. Colin Brown

Patients must

Patients should be encouraged to select their own definition of death, and confirm it in writing to be used by their GPs if have suggested.

says that patients who have brain functions should be considered dead too, although their hrain stem is intact and they can breathe on their own. Dr Powner says a solution is to persuade people to define what death means to them in the event

unwanted child

Unwanted children run a higher risk of developing schizophrenia than children who are wanted or "mistimed", according to a study from Finland published in The British Journal of

Psychiatry.

Being unwanted is two and a half times more common in schizophrenics than in others even after adjustments are. made for parents' social background and other factors which have been shown to be risk factors for schizophrenia

Out of 11,017 individuals studied, 76 cases of schizophrenia were found between the ages of 16 to 28. Of these 1.5 per cent were children from an unwanted pregnancy while 0.6 per cent were wanted and 0.5 per cent vere mistimed.

Stress during pregnancy may affect foetal brain stress after birth leading to an abnormal family atmosphere during childhood could be contributing factors.

"If a pregnancy is unwanted, this is more likely to put the child at risk of any psychological disorder," said Dr Alyson Hall, a consultant in child psychology. Children who are loved and wanted and cared for at childhood are less at risk."

Guernsey yes to abortion

Guernsey's parliament yesterday voted to legalise abortion - the last area in the British Isles to do so.

A 1910 law that made abortion punishable by life imprisonment was thrown out by 34 votes to 20 by the States of Deliberation and replaced by legislation that allows a pregnancy to be terminated up to the end of the twelfth week, provided

two doctors approve. Numerous amendments were brought during the lengthy and emotional debate by pro-life politicians attempting to stop the law from being passed but all were rejected or withdrawn.

Philip Jeune

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Tank blows trains off

course Rail passengers at Tyseley in the West Midlands discovered a new excuse in the long litary of apologies for tardiness. Their station had, overnight, been partially

being transported on Wednesday night from Salisbury plain to its base at Catterick in North Yorkshire However, as it went through Birmingham, the turret of the tank smashed into the canopy of the station at

It was only on arrival at Redmire where the tanks were taken off the train that if was discovered that "there were small particles of wood on the tank'

Rail bosse alerted that what looked like a hits of a static goof had been found on the tank

necessary, American doctors The doctors, all specialists in intensive care and led by Dr David Powner at Pittsburgh University, say changing societal attitudes Germany intend to pay all their have confused the definition. pensioners in the future. We, And now brain death after all, are saving for our rewidely accepted since the early 1980s as the ultimate tirements and are putting mon-ey aside to pay the bills." definition of death - is being challenged. In The Lancet, Dr Powner The Tory Euro-sceptics believe it will enable the Govern-Tyseley, leaving much of it scattered on the track. ment to opt out of a single currency in advance of the genpermanently lost their higher eral election on the ground

of a decision having to be made, Liz Hunt

to meet the debt burden. Pro-Europeans played down the report. Quentin Davies, vice-chairman of the European Movement said: "It is nonsense to argue that Britain would have to pay for the big pension commitments of other EU countries if we joined the single currency." But the Tory Euro-sceptic David Shaw, MP for Dover, said that in a single currency, "there would be one halance sheet and we would be

that Germany and France will

now be forced to "fudge" the

criteria for entry to overcome

their debt burden on pensions.

and Germany will have to bor-

row more - breaking the criteria for entry to a single currency

- or raise taxes or cut pensions

The report warns that France

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BACK ISSUES

Harding funeral unites two loves

The two women in the soccer tyeoon Matthew Harding's life were united in grief at his funeral yesterday.

His estranged wife Ruth, 42, and lover Vicky Jaramillo. 25, came together for the first time at the service in the East Sussex village of Ditchling, where the Chelsea vicechairman and Mrs Harding had lived. But they did not speak to one another, and Ms Jaramillo slipped away from the church in tears minutes before the service ended, leaving the widow, her four children and Mr Harding's father Paul, to accompany his cuffin to the cremation.

Among the 100 mourners were Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, player-manager Rund Gullit, England coach Glenn Hoddle, and Labour's deputy leader John Prescott.

Mr Harding, 42, a multi-millionaire, died with four other men in a helicopter crash last Tuesday, on the way back from watching Chelsea play. His ashes are to be scattered at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea's ground.



Sad tribute: A wreath outside St Margaret's church at Ditching where Matthew Harding's funeral was held yesterday

Photograph: Philip Meech

Rushdie rounds on 'cowardly' ban by Denmark

The novelist Salman Rushdie ardly" a decision by the Danish government to ban him from a literary award ceremony in Copenhagen, writes Michael

Rushdie said the authorities had refused to allow him to accept the European Union's Aristeion Prize for Literature in person later this month. This was the "opposite" of how a Government should react to the fatwa imposed on the writer following the publication of his The

Satanic Verses, he said. A spokesman for the Danish Foreign Ministry said last night he was aware of the story but could not confirm any details.

The International Rushdie Defence Committee said that the Danish government informed the writer yesterday he would not be permitted to go as planned to the ceremony in the current European City of Culture to collect the prize for his novel The Moor's Last Sigh.

The committee said the Danish authorities told them: "This decision has been taken in view of the present situation for the police in Denmark. "There will be arranged an-

other suitable kind of presen-tation." The Danes also claimed that advance publicity of Rushdie's visit had increased security risks. Rushdie said vesterday he

would refuse to accept the award under the current cir-"It is scandalous that Copenhagen, the present capital of culture, refuses to permit the

winner of the EU's own litera-

ture prize, to attend the awards ceremony. "It is a cowardly decision which is exactly the opposite of what one should do in the face of threats such as the Iranian

However, the committee said there had never been any suggestion in public that Rushtlie who has lived under the shadow of the fatwa for seven and a half years; would be travelling to the 14 November ceremony in person.

Yesterday the committee called on Rushdie's co-prize winner Christoph Ransmayr to boycott the ceremony.

Europe facing - Patients mus define death, a massive debt on pensions

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Euro-sceptic Tory MPs last night said the Government could harden its policy against entry into single European currency before the general election, following a Commons committee report warning that Britain's European partners face a massive deht problem over state pensions.

The committee, chaired by the Labour MP Frank Field, was also seen as a let-out for Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who has been warned that he will not be able to sustain a policy of 'wait and see" through a gen-

Senior Shadow Cahinet coleagues who have been pressing for Labour to rule out joining in the first wave were convinced that their argument had been strengthened by the report. It came only hours after Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, distanced himself from the warning by Lord Healey, the former Chancellor, that a single currency would lead to riots in the streets.

been thrown a lifeline," said one abilant Tory Euro-sceptic after the publication of the report by the Commons select committee on social security. It will intensify the pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to drop his opposition to Britain ruling itself out of joining the first wave into a single currency.

"The Prime Minister has

Some Tory Euro-sceptics said it would mean Britain would become liable for the debts of Germany, France and other partners if it joined a single currency. That was discounted by Tory members of the select committee, but they conceded it would mean higher interest rates in Britain.

John Redwood, leading Tory Euro-sceptie and former Cabinet minister, said: "Joining a single currency and abolishing the pound means having a joint current account with our partners. Most Continental countries have made generous gension gromises but have not saved any money to meet them. These figures should also be included in the reckoning ... we should ask how France and

Hillsborough ruling opens wounds

a part of that balance sheet".

Yesterday's ruling reopened all the old wounds among the hereaved families of fans who lost their lives in what Lord Justice Taylor described in his official report as "truly gruesome" carnage.

As with other disasters such as Zeebrugge, Bradford and King's Cross, victims' families can claim for loss of earnings if the deceased was a bread-winner, or for the statutory bereavement allowance, formerly £3,500 but now £7,500, for the loss of a child under 18.

But the House of Lords has ruled out compensation for the psychological injury suffered numbers of relatives who watched the tragedy unfold on television or who reached the ground or the mortuary some hours later.

Psychiatrie injuries follow-

ing disasters are typically posttraumatic stress disorder which does not, contrary to the men of steel" assertion, bear any relationship to a person's psychological make-up or training - and depression. Whether compensation can be claimed depends on the "proximity" of

They must be in close relationship to the victim, close in terms of time and distance to the disaster and close in terms of means of communication. Lord Justice Henry said: "I

the relatives have failed." But the court had to decide the case on the different principles that applied to the officers The implication is that it is for.

the law on relatives to he brought into line, rather than justifiable claims by officers being ruled out. The Law Com-mission, the official law-reform body, has been reviewing the law and and a final report is awaited. Relatives struggled. equally with yesterday's ruling that professional "rescuers" are not excluded from the protection of the law merely because men. It exists because the court rescuing forms part of their nor- has long recognised a duty of

am aware that many people regard it as fundamentally unjust

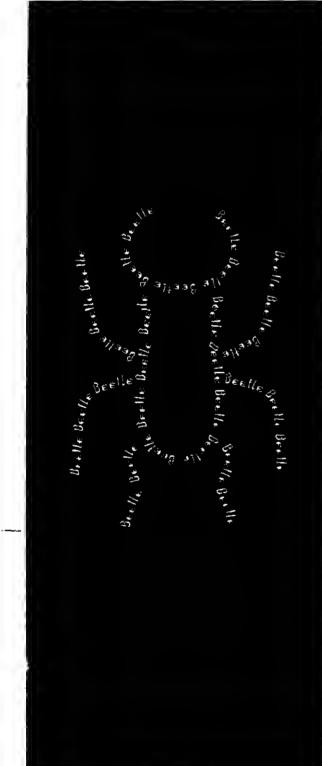
that the police should recover damages for post-traumatic Group, who lost two daughters whether any duty of care exists stress disorder sustained on in the tragedy, suggested. This towards [other] plaintiffs, the that terrible day, while some of decision opens the gloodgates for everybody in a uniform being a victim - a firemen, an sinbulance man, even a soldier [could] jump on the bandwag-on and claim massive compensation". Mr Hicks, who was at Hillsborough on the fateful

day, said many fans had also helped carry bodies and give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. mouth-to-mouth resuscit His prediction will not be bonie out as the law now stands. Lord Austice Rose said: The distinction is not due to any preference being given by the courts to policemen over bycare to geard employees and

towards [other] plaintiffs, the posed specific criteria in relation to claims for psychiatric in-jury. Abolishing such a disig such a distinction is unlikely to be something the judges would feel comfortable about and would ultimately be for Parliament to decide.

Fears of opening floodgates are traditionally raised when-ever courts make rulings that appear to extend the categories of compensation claimants. In practice, the floodgates tend not to open very far, while the rulings tend to put pressure on po-tential defendants to tighten up

Patricia Wynn Davies

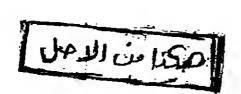


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Murdoch's bitter vendetta pulls the plug on Britain's latest TV channel

Feud with rival mogul highlights the dangers of concentrating power in the hands of one

man, writes **Mathew Horsman**

A bitter personal feud between two of the world's most powerful media figures means British televisioo viewers will not now have see an entirely new channel today.

Rupert Murdoch's fight with Ted Turner, the founder of CNN, and Time Warner, the entertainment juggernaut, shifted dramatically to Britain last night, when Mr Mur-doch's satellite hroadcaster BSkyB indefinitely postponed the UK launch of the Warner Channel, originally scheduled for today.

The increasingly hitter and high-ly personal battle pits Mr Murdoch - conservative, crass, authoritarian and utterly ruthless - against Turner, a Democrat, husband of Hanoi Jane Fouda, and a man troubled by mood swings and bouts of depression. Their war of words has dominated media news in New York for weeks, and has widened to include the city's mayor. New York State's attorney-general and Gerald Levin, the publicity-shy head of Time-Warner, the world's largest entertainment company, and the new owners of Turner Entertainment and CNN.

At risk are crucial distribution agreements that would allow Mr Murdoch's all-news channel to be hroadcast in New York City. But the issue has been all but buried under a barrage of lawsuits, insults and sharp tacties. And now the war has gone international, causing some to fear a massive escalation in hostilities between two global giants, in markets far from the epicentre of

The move against the Warner Channel, which infuriated local programming staff in London, means the UK's 4 million satellite and cable TV viewers won't see the channel's vintage movies and TV series, Bugs Bunny cartoons, a Steven Spielberg-produced kids' show called *Animantaes* and a Warner TV hit called *Pinky and the Brain* — all of which Warner had hoped would

prove wildly popular in Britain. The use of Mr Murdoch's 40 per cent-owned BSkyB as a foot-soldier in that war is sure to heighten concerns in the UK over his near-monopoly dominance of the pay-TV

BSkyB's control of the satellite market is so complete that hroadcasters have no choice but to do distribution deals with the Murdochcontrolled company. Sky alone operates a subscription management system, based on so-called "smart eards," that allows satellite channels to be broadcast only to those house-

holds that have paid subscription. Mr Murdoch's stranglehold on pay TV has receotly been the subject of press comment, including in The Independent, in anticipation of the launch of digital satellite television next year. There are growing concerns that his dominance will





emerge intact into the digital age thereby securing him a "gatekeep-er role" over British pay-TV's de-

The mixing of Mr Murdoch's US agenda with the commercial activities of BSkyB will be seen by many in the British television iodustry as further proof of his powerful mar-

A leading media analyst said: "If were a shareholder in BSkyB, I'd velopment.

be asking whether the best interests of the company were being considered, rather than the best interests of one owner. Executives at BSkyB and at the

Warner Channel in the UK declined to comment on the decision. In a statement, the companies said:

"The I November launch of WBTV- 1 November date. But in recent ad-The Warner Channel on BSkvB has been delayed. Preparations continue for a launch at a later date."

Warner was meant to be one of several new channels being intro-duced this autumn on BSkyB's multi-channel satellite package. The US company has placed billboards around the country promoting the

verts run by BSkyB, extolling its new services, and in listings guides for satellite and cable channels, there has been no mention of Warner.

It was widely suggested last night that a resolution of Mr Murdoch's wrangles in the US would smooth the way for the Warner Channel launch. Mr Turner's CNN, which is now

cept a competing news service on its cable network. It chose Microsoft/NBC over Fox, despite what Mr Murdoch believes were iron-clad guarantees from Time Warner.

part of Time Warner, has 70 million

subscribers, while Fox News has

just 17 million. Under the terms of

the Time Warner/CNN merger, the

combined group was required to ac-

Television drama: (Clockwise from top left) Warner Brothers cartoon character Bugs Bunny; Ted Turner and his wife Jane Fonda; New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and his wife, Donna; and Rupert Murdoch with his wife, Anna, and their daughter, Elisabeth Photographs: Ronald Grant Archive/Reuters/AP/PA

Mr Murdoch has already launched a suit against the company, and has enlisted the help oot only of the Republican mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, but even the Attorney-General's Office and, of course, his New York City newspaper, the Post. (Interesting, Mr Giullani's wife, Donna, works for Mr Murdoch's New York flagship tele-visioo statioo Fox Five.)

The City of New York obligingly sided with Mr Murdoch, who employs 1,400 at Fox News headquarters in the city. The municipal government even announced it would allow Fox News to run on one of the city's public access channels, which are provided by Time Warner under the terms of its licence.

Time Warner quickly woo an injunction against the move, and promptly filed its own suit. In it, the City is accused of acting "essentially as Rupert Murdoch's latest po-

litical puppet".
The Post, Mr Murdoch's flagship US newspaper, has been running a steady stream of anti-Time Warner material, and has been vitriolic on the subject of Ted Turner, who last month likened Mr Murdoch to Hitler because he uses his newspapers to promote his own political and

Mr Murdoch's Fox and Time Warner have each taken out fullpage advertisements in the New York press, arguing their corners. Mr Murdoch even hired a plane to circle Yankee Stadium with an anti-Time Warner message. The dispute flared just as the New York Yankees were battling for the World Series against the Atlanta Braves, owned. of course, by none other than Ted

The use of his newspapers to promote his businesses will remind many of the way the Sun and the Times, particularly, have helped publicise Mr Murdoch's growing satellite TV businesses. More worryingly, many in the industry believe Mr Murdoch's control of more than 30 per cent of the national newspaper market has been the chief reason politicians from both leading parties have been unwilling to chalnge the media baron on his pay-

V monopoly.

The indefinite delay of the Warnas the Independent Television Com-mission's invitation to apply for up to four "multiplex" liceoces for digital terrestrial television. Many now believe that Mr Murdoch's digital satellite plans will pre-empt efforts to get DTT off the ground.

The Warner Channel delay, while minor, could be a harbioger of things to come. Will broadcasters be able to win access to Mr Murdoch's huge distribution system on fair and open terms? Or will they be hostage to the needs of a huge and growing global media empire, run by a single-minded, at times impetuous man, used to getting his own way?

Women plan to sue hospital over smear test

Liz Hunt Health Edito:

Some women at high risk of cervical cancer have yet to be traced more than a year after errors in the smear-testing system at a Kent hyspital were first uncovered, it emerged last

A spokeswoman for the Kent and Canterbury Hospital National Health Service

had been reviewed and found to show "high-grade" abnormal cells had moved trom the area or changed their GPs, and left no for-

warding address. "The vast majority have been contacted or come forward themselves and have been undergoing treatment at the hospital, but there are some we

The hospital is facing legal

action by some women whose cervical smears were found to have been incorrectly read following the biggest ever revision of smears since the NHS testing programme began in 1987. A total of 81,000 smears taken over a five-year period were reviewed: 1,800 patients had been wrongly told they

ment because they showed high-grade abnormalities iodicative of cancer, pre-cancer-ous chaoges, or serious iofection. Two of the women

underwent hysterectomics. The hospital spokeswoman said that "up to six patients" were considering launching legal action over the mistake which came to light in October

Trust said that some of the 300 have been unable to trace so were in the clear, and of these when an unacceptably high wasterday that the results of the number of wrongly classified

smears were identified.

A review of all smear tests conducted at the hospital since 1990 was ordered in February this year, and the smears were sent out for independent review to other ceoures around the country, including Brighton, Birmingham, and Manchester. Dr Kate Neales, a consultant

retesting programme revealed that fewer women than ex-

pected had oeeded treatment. "When the mistake was first discovered we expected a certain percentage of the number of tests we were looking at to perhaps not be clear," Dr Neales said. "We thought it could be as many as 500, hut in fact oow that the programme

of retesting has been completed, we found it was less than that and was probably not as many as 300. We cannot yet be sure how many were affected because some women may

have choseo to be treated by another hospital," Dr Neales added: "There were a couple of cases, one or two at the most, who needed extensive treatment. By that I mean a hysterectomy.

The retesting was completed in June and is now being evaluated by an expert. The hospital said that no individual was to hlame and that the reading of smear tests was an "inexact" science with an accepted margin of error of about

Training and supervision procedures had been tightened up at the hospital following the mistake, she added.

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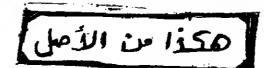
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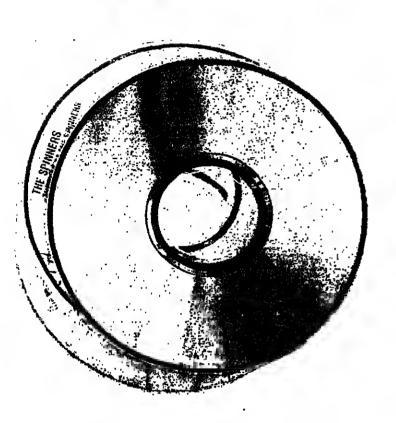
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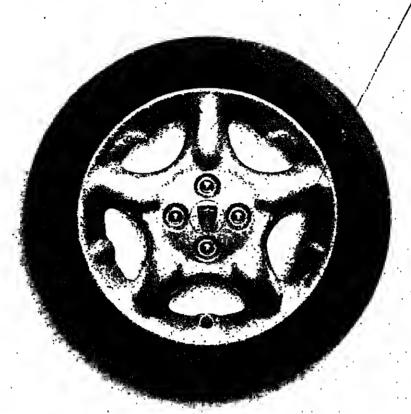
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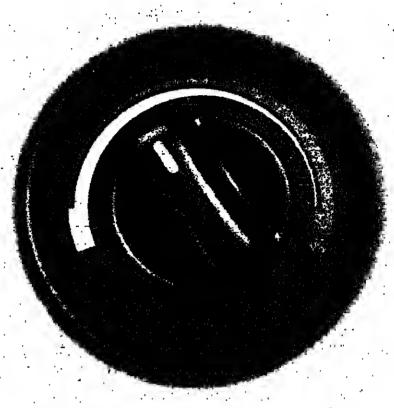
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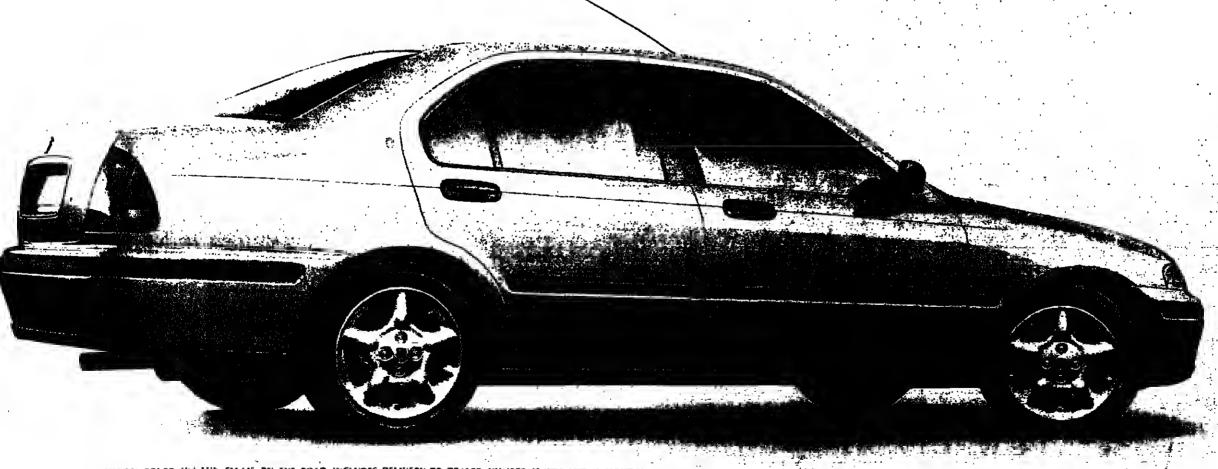
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Chris Blackhurst Westminster Correspondent

The world's largest domed building will be constructed in Britain - if the Millennium Exhibition in London goes ahead as planned.

A luge, domed, tent-like structure will be erected at Greenwich, eclipsing most of Britain's best-known buildings. The size of two Wembley Stadiums or 13 Albert Halls, taller than Nelson's Column, the "Millennium Dome" will be even larger than the Georgia Dome in Atlanta and the Astrodome in Hnuston, America's two biggest sporting

On the same day as the contest to develop a new National Stadium at Wembley Intted up, the Millennium Exhibition organisers unveiled details of what could become, once the year 2000 has passed, the world's largest indoor sporting

Who will own the giant complex by the Thames, once the exhibition has finished, is still open to question. Organisers said vesterday that British Gas owned the 130-acre site on the Greenwich Peninsula and that discussions were still taking place between the company and English Partnerships, Government agency charged with regenerating old industrial sites. to clarify the

They stressed that the dome was designed to be taken down if needs be. More than 50m high, it will be supported by cabling attached to 12 masts, each

In all, it will provide 1.1m sq ft of exhibition space - big enough to park 3,300 London

The idea, said Barry Hartop, the government official now in charge of co-ordinating the project, was "to make a significant statement to the world." Mr Hartop likened it to the Sydney Opera House in scale and with its external piants and walkways intended to provide a home for entertainers and performance artists, similar to the Pompidou Centre in

NAG

Details of what the dome will actually house remain sketchy. Inside, there will be 12 pavilions, each devoted in a single theme nf British life from the past 1,000 years and looking to the future. The overall theme will be "time", with the dome intended in represent a giant

Sitting alongside Mr Hartop, representatives from the designers, Imagination, and architects, the Richard Rogers Partnership, tripped off facts and figures for a project, that if it happens, will dwarf anything ever seen in Britain: 35,000 visitors per hour coming by Tube train; a capacity of 70,000; over 2,000 construction jobs; over 5,000 jobs in the Exhibition proper; specially-designed boats shuttling visiturs backwards and forwards along the Thames; a new Millennium pier; new roads; a strengthened river wall; parking for 500 coaches: 12.5m visitors during. the Millennium year.

A one-day visit will not be sufficient, says Mr Hartop, whn reckons people will require at least a day-and-a-half to do it

Questions remain, however, over the acceptability of the plans to the Greenwich public - the organisers plan in dis-tribute 120,000 leaflets setting nut their plans and to set up a permanent exhibition of scale models - and the final cost.

At present, the project has a hudget of £350m, of which £200m is coming from National Lottery funds and £150m from is to be provided by private and corporate sponsor-

But aiready, sources close to the project have been warning that this figure is too optimistic by far, and that a final cost of £800m or even £1 bn looks more

Early reaction from Greenthe leader of Greenwich Council, said: "At last it's landed and it's been worth the wait. It will be an international landmark for the future that will complement historic Greenwich and will mark a new renaissance for London in the 21st century."



No place like Dome: A computer simulation of the centrepiece of developers' plans for the Greenwich Millennium Festival

IONATHAN GLANCEY

est materials - various advanced

fabrics - and the giant structure

with its twelve 100m masts is

daring, the design undoubted-ly looks back at that Indian sum-

mer of "British is best" design

and engineering that saw the fi-

nal flowering of the Empire. Has the Millennium team got

in right? Is an update of the 1951

Dome of Discovery the right

sort of architectural symbol to

mark the year 2000? Probably

not. Yet the Rogers proposal is

without doubt a much better op-

tion than the popular one that

has called for the reconstruction

of the Crystal Palace, star of the

Great Exhibition of 1851. Nev-

er the less, the Crystal Palace,

designed by Joseph Paxton, was

great celebration needs better

thing like the Dome before, those born before 1945 most certainly have. Clearly inspired by Raiph Tubb's Dome of Discovery at the heart of the 1951 Festival of Britain, the Millennium Dome shows that even the most avant-garde architects and forward-thinking engineers can suffer from nostalgia.

A computer image of the Dome released yesterday adds to this sense of looking back: it depicts a 1930s-style airship flying over the Dome at night, the scene reminiscent of the sort nf son et humière put on for the German rolk by Albert Speer. Hitler's pet architect.

It also looks like the sort of building that Dan Dare, Space wich was positive. Len Duvall, Pilot of the Future, expected to see through the windscreen of his Space Fleet interceptor as he flew over London circa 2000 in the pages of the 1950s boys' comic, the Eagle. The Eagle was launched a year before the Festival of Britain opened. Although the roof of the Dome will be made of the lat-

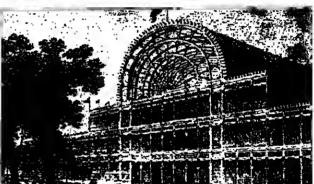
though we would be unwise to adopt its form, we would benefit greatly from its spirit. The Millennium Dome is a

logical development of contemporary architecture, yet its style is rooted in buildings from aircraft hangars and exhibition halls to sports stadia that spell '20th century' - and not the future - in large letters.

Perhaps it is difficult for architects and designers to be ahead of their time, and yet we need a building - assuming that we want the Festival to go ahead - that will lead us somehow into the future.

That building must be, in many ways, a shot in the dark and not just a large-scale extension of what we can already do. Quite simply, the Millennisignals: it is already yesterday's

The Rogers team's ability to design a futuristic form of architecture is not in question: the Pompidou Centre (1971-77) revolutionised our idea of the



public museum and art gailery; nothing quite like it had been seen before. We need that level of imagination.

In 1851 Britain looked forwards: it did so again in 1951. Fifty years on we should he do-

One of the reasons the design might be a little conservative is that it needs to appeal to corporate sponsors who will want

to back a safe bet. Unlike the

Great Exhibition (money raised by subscription) or the Festival of Britain (state-funded) the Millennium Festival must be paid to a significant extent by private enterprise. To date British Airways, BT and British Aerospace have made contributions. Are they looking for a tame, if gigantic, trade show or a leap of faith into an unknown

Asda has them dancing in the aisles

Clare Garner

Asda, the supermarket known for its socialising has abandoned the singles market in favour nf pensioners.

Over 60-year-olds are invited to get on down in their local store next week and groove to Glenn Miller and company as

they snap up bargain groceries. Just as lonely hearts used to pace up and down Asda's shopping aisles looking for love, so the elderly can now bop as they shop and mingle to the jin-

gles of yesteryear.
All 208 stores across the country are mixing their own compilations of music from Frank Sinatra, Cole Porter and Gershwin to "a hig band of the Forties" called Geraldn's.

Billed as "OAP Happy Hnurs", the sessinns will run from 9am to 11am next Monday and Wednesday. It will be a case of ID at the checkout rather than the door; any customer with a pension hook will be entitled to a 10 per cent discount on their final bill.

"Get out thuse pensinn books, get on your glad rags and get down to your local Asda for a fantastic 10 per cent off your shapping bill," said a spokes-woman far Asda.

"Not only will pensioners get the lowest-priced shop in town, they can have a party too with a free cuppa and an oldfashioned knees-up.

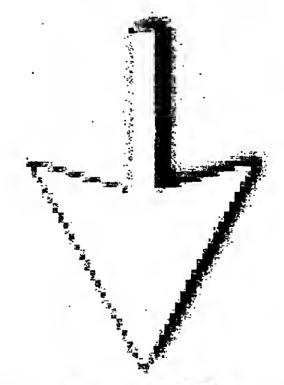
"Shopping to the nostalgic music of the Twenties and the dance bands of the Forties, OAPs will be entitled to 10 per cent off all purchases, except cigarettes and lottery tickets, on presentation of their pension book. So whether it's restocking the cupboards buying Christmas gifts for family and friends, or just visiting for a chat and some; entertainment, there's some-

thing for everyone." Allan Leighton, who took: over from Archie Norman as chief executive in August, said: 1 We want to provide some fun for our 1 million older cusinmers and, more importantly, i Pipe dream, page 14 give them some welcome help with their Christmas shopping."

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Cattle may go hungry

Many farmers face the choice of financial ruin or letting thousands of cattle go hungry this winter, because of the failure of the Government's culling scheme to eradicate BSE, writes Charles Arthur.

The Government estimates that 400,000 cattle aged over 30 months – and so destined solely for culling - are being kept around the country. Each costs up to £10 to feed each week, and is eating into

Unsold and unculled cows have used up more feed than forecast, which will force farmers to restock early. But in many cases, they will not have received the payments for the culled animals, as that can take two and a half

New-style CJD claims second victim in France

Susan Emmett and Charles Arthur

French scientists say they have found a second case of the "new variant" of the fatal Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), raising the possibility that BSE-infected cattle have entered the food chain there. In a letter in tomorrow's edition of the The Luncet, a team

woman who died in October 1995, suffering features of the "new variant" of CJD which is increasingly strongly linked to exposure to the agent which causes BSE in cattle. She was confused and unable to stand hut scanning revealed regular brainwaves - symptoms typical of the "new variant". She also had a genetic configuration, common to 38 per cent of the of five scientists from Lyons de-scribe a 52-year-old French population but common so far to every "new variant" victim.

Since 1993, there have been 12 confirmed cases of the "new variant" in the UK. In March, the Government said that the most likely explanation was ex-posure to BSE, and since then a growing number of experiments have hacked this hypothesis. The result was a han on British beef exports to the rest of Europe, on the basis of consumer protection.

BSE has been found in

this year, and a total of 23 since examination of the woman's are under 42, though one is sus-1990. But some observers have brain after her death showed the said that the extent of BSE is be-plaques and spongy holes which The scientists did not provide ing covered up in that country.

If the new variant of CJD is definitely linked to BSE, and there are more cases in France, it could devastate the farm economy in the same way as it has in the UK, where the £500m

mechanic, also from Lyons, who had never been to the UK beef export industry has aland had no contact with cattle. most been destroyed by the EU If the case is confirmed, the ban on beef and beef products. victim would be the oldest so far reported. Currently, almost all

plaques and spongy holes which are typical of the new form of disease. If it is confirmed, she

would be the second reported

case of the disease in France.

The first was a 26-year-old male

any travel or dietary details about the woman, but noted that in 1984 she had a brain operation in which she received some hyman tissue.

Such operations have previ-ously caused CID, by passing it on from infected surgical instraments, but the "new variant" was unknown before this year, and CJD transmitted in this way

possible that this lady's illness could be related the graft."

Another report in The Lancet describes a 66-year-old German man who regularly ate animal feed - blamed in the UK for spreading the BSE epidemic.

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which have never reported BSE. French veterinary authorities have requested the shutdown of the Hard Rock Café in Paris after the discovery of 300kg (660lbs) of banned British beef during a routine inspection of

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usually shows up more quickly. The man developed CJD. However, the symptoms were those of "classic" or "sporadic" CJD, Martin Zeidler, research registrar at the CJD Surveillance which has never been linked to Unit in Edinburgh. "At the mo-ment you can't say this is a new BSE, and is found all over the world, including countries variant like the BSE-related ones in Britain. It is not im-

Ministers crush Ulster's hopes on beef

Katherine Butler Brussels

Thirteen of the fifteen European Union governments have said that they are ready to explore easing the ban on beef exports from Northern Ireland. But the Government is so split

on the issue that it has failed to open negotiations with Brussels. despite mounting anger from Ulster farmers whose export trade has been decimated by the em-bargo. A protracted Cabinet row could jeopardise John Major's wafer-thin parliamentary majority if the nine Ulster Unionist MPs, who have strong support in mainly Protestant farming constituencies, decide to

In recent days, the Irish EU presidency has been informed by every capital except Bonn that they could support lifting the ban for certified herds in Northern Ireland provided a slaughter of 1,600 high-risk eat-tle is carried out in the province. So desperate are the farmers that they have offered to finance the culf themselves.

Ivan Yates, the Irish agriculture minister, confirmed he had been canvassing the idea. "I have to say that a majority of states were sympathetic to some solution that would limit animal movements between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom," he said.

Diplomatic sources said that even the Germans did not rule out the concession and were open to discussing it, but only if Whitehall comes lorward with a blueprint for meeting the veterinary and health conditions.

The Northern Ireland Office has been lobbying the Government to seek separate treatment on the basis that Ulster would pass the EU test on herds certitled free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) almost automatically. It is divided from the rest of the UK by water, has a low incidence of BSE and has

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the most advanced cattle tracing system in Europe. These arguments have now been accepted by the European Commission, which is ready to recommend that Northern Ireland could open the way for the eventual easing of the ban on all herds in Britain which can be certified BSE-free.

However, Franz Fischler, the European agriculture commissioner, is not prepared to propose the early removal of the blockade for Scotland - even though it also has many herds which have never had BSE - because of the difficulties of policing the border with England. EU sources suspect that

Michael Forsyth, the Secretary unusual decision to attend talks between EU agriculture ministers in Luxembourg this week principally to ensure that Northern Ireland would win no concessions which will not be available to Scotland for the foreseeable future.

Cabinet divisions on the issue were reflected by the unprecedented assembly of five UK ministers at the Luxembourg meeting. Mr Forsyth and the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, both publicly reiterated that they were there to lobby for a "UK-wide" easing of the embargo for BSE-free herds. Baroness Denton, the Northern Ireland Agriculture minister, said Northern Ireland would be a frontrunner if the EU were to allow exports of beef from certified BSE-free herds, but she was excluded from a bilateral meeting between the UK delegation and

Mr Fischler last Monday. Mr Yates has been using his EU presidency to push for a separate solution for Northern Ireland based on its unique computerised cattle tracing system. He has a vested interest: enforcing the beef ban is cost-ing the Republic £500,000 a week in border pairols.

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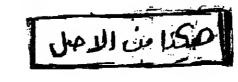


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Mr Major's reply to Mr Ashdown: "Can the Rt Hon Gentleman Indicate a single expenditure cut that he has supported?". Mr

Elizabeth Peacock (C. Battey and Spen): "Is my Right Honourable friend aware that the County of Yorkshire has an econowhich is bigger and better than many small nations?".



John Proposition unveiling Labour's new poster campaign funded by £1m from Chelsea boss Matthew Harding whose funeral was held yesterday

Blair shelves party line over Bill of Rights

John Rentoul Political Correspondent

> Tony Blair has shelved Labour's commitment to a Bill of Rights, which would enshrine in law the

> basic rights of British citizens. A seninr source told The Independent yesterday that a secret decision effectively to abandon the policy was taken at the start

inn manifesto and enthusiastically endorsed by the late John Smith, but has not been mentioned by Mr Blair since he succeeded to the Labour leadership two years ago.

Jack Straw, the shadow Hnme Secretary, and Mr Blair agreed at a private meeting nine months ago that a such a Bill would not be enacted in the first parliamentary term of a Labour government. Their draft manifesto, ex-

pected to be endorsed in a membership ballot which closed yesterday, promises only to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. This was described in a 1993 Labour policy document as "a necessary first step, but it is not a substitute for our own written Bill of Rights". Some constitutional reform-

ers point out that bringing the convention into British law will not give people any rights that they do not already have -it will only make it easier to enforce them, because complainants would no longer have to go to the Strasbourg court. A Bill of Rights has been cen-

tral to Labour's programme of democratic reform for more than a decade, designed to as-

nf this year. A Bill nf Rights was sert the dignity and indepen-promised in Labour's last electhe untrammelled power of an over-centralised state in a country without a written constitution.

But Mr Blair has been anxious about the legislative overload of Labour's constitutional programme since he inherited responsibility for it as shadow Home Secretary in 1992. At that time, Labour promised an all-embracing Bill of Rights which would be "entrenched" by giving a new elected Second Chamber

the power to delay changes to it. Since becoming leader, he has also postponed plans to replace the House of Lords, promising only to end the voting rights of hereditary peers, deferred regional government in England and insisted on referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution.

His successor as shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has also shifted the emphasis of Labour's approach. In a speech at the end of last year, he floated the possibility of a "Bill of Rights and Responsibilities", suggesting that in the long term the idea could be adapted to promore the "New Labour" concept | Straw had accepted it was not of the military-style knives, of enforceable chizens' duties

In his John Smith Memorial Lecture in February this year, Mr Blair referred only generally

Howard raises hope of action over knives

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The chance of action heing taken to ban combat knives rose last night after the Home Secretary agreed to meet Labour and Liberal Democrat spokesmen - and an MP anniunced that she would introduce a backbench Bill.

Announcing the meeting be-tween Michael Howard, Jack Straw and Alex Carlile, the Prime Minister told the Commons that following the Labour and Liberal Democrat spokesmen's joint letter to the Home Secretary earlier this week, there would be a meeting in the "near future". But Mr Major was also keen

easy matter to come up with a workable legislative definitinn of a combat knife. "He has had to change his position, I betn a "code of citizens' rights". | lieve," Mr Major said. "But of

structive suggestion that comes forward.

In a letter to Mr Straw and Mr Carlile, the Home Secretary said the approach taken by them - with a broad han, backed by exemptions for legitimate knives like those used by gardeners - had "important deficiencies". But he added: "I

am certainly prepared to discuss this approach with you. The key tests are these. Will it have the effect of getting rid of the kind of knife to which we all object, while allowing legitimate knives to continue to be sold? And will it be possible to enforce the law effectively, without criminalising innocent people?"

Responding to the proposal to emphasise his view that Mr to tackle the sale and promotion Mr Howard said that while statutory control over advertising "could probably be made to work", he preferred to use the self-regulatory powers of the

Advertising Standards Author

Mr Howard said he though the ASA could do more than was doing, "I am concerne that because it is their usu practice nnly to respond complaints, they may be mis ing advertisements in mail-c der catalogues which are or seen by individuals who are u likely to complain. I am al concerned that the ASA are n being effective in relation to t names of products which co tinue to be sold under nam which have violent overtone:

Labour MP Audrey Wit who came fifth in the ballot f private members' Bills, sa last might that she would be pr moting a Bill on combat kniv It is possible that if Mr Howa! Mr Straw and Mr Carlile c reach agreement on an all-p ty approach - and definition Mrs Wise's Bill could be us as a fast-track vehicle for b: ning action.



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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL GOING ON THIS CHRISTMAS

Push for change in law abortion

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Anti-abortion campaigners were yesterday threatening a final push for a change in the abortion laws as part of the "alternative Queen's Speech" fnllowing a ballot of MPs for the right to introduce private mem-

The Pro Life Group of MPs were ready with a short Bill to change the wording of the criteria for abortinn to ensure that there has to be a "serious" risk that the life of the mother would be "substantially affected", if it was not carried out.

There is no chance that such a controversial measure could be enacted as law, but supporters said it would be used in raise the issue in time for the election, and embarrass Tony Blair, the Labour leader, who has been criticised by church leaders over his anti-abortion

Chris Whitehouse, secretary of the group, said: "We will be looking for a Bill to end abortion on demand and end social abortions.

The 20 MPs whose names were drawn out of the hat in the ballot were immediately bombarded with suggested Bills to take up by government depart-ments and lobby groups.

Only the first four MPs in the

list will be guaranteed a second reading debate. The 20 includ-ed John Ward, the Prime Minister's PPS, and Robert Spink, a PPS at the Home Office. The Home Office is offering three "hand-out" Bills to outlaw "sex tourism"; to close down clubs where there is evidence of drugtaking and in introduce pow ers to confiscate alcohol held by under-age drinkers. The DTI is also tracking a Bill against mobile phone cloning.
The top 10 in the ballot

were: Jimmy Wray (Lab. Provan), Barry Legg (C, Milton Keynes SW), Robert Spink (C. Castle Point), Nigel Waterson (C, Eastbourne), Audrey Wise Lab. Preston) John Ward (C. Poole), Don Foster (LD, Bath), Nigel Evans (C, Ribble Valley), lan Bruce (C, Dorset S) and John Marshall (C, Hendon S).

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Holpont





There's still time to stop the life being sucked out of the loveliest small towns in Britain

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

The small market towns of England have started clubbing together to stop new out-of-town and edge-of-town superstores from sucking the shoppers.

toric ceotres, with their street markets that go back to mediaeval times or even earlier. They say that recent changes

Seven local councils have decided to swap information and share experience and research on the threat to the histowns have granted planning permissions for superstores that have not yet been built – and they are now regretting it.

The complete the continue to be strained by the complete their coverage. "We're cootablished stallholders have quit. Five shops stand empty in Dyer places like Circnesster," said the heart of the Nigel Howella, chief executive Gloucestershire town which

"We've had to cut the stall rents once, and now the market traders are asking us to cut them again," Cirencester's town clerk, David Durbin, said. "It used to be a job to walk through the crowds on market days, but oow it's far too easy." He and the district council say that the damage has been done by three superstores built on the town's dual carriageway bypass.

The Government has been worried enough to commission. research from the chartered surveyors Hillier Parker into the damage done to smaller market. towns. Russell Schiller, one of the consultants involved, said that unlike bigger towns, the smaller ooes still had a large proportion of food retailers butchers, bakers and so forthwho competed directly with the supermarkets. So when a superstore was built and started to pull customers away from the centre, the damage was all the

tail Managemeot, said that the towns' fears were justified. "As rstore chains are now moving in oo these smaller commonities ... these are genuine

"They're also going into re-tailing overseas, and developing smaller stores to city centres. We're also seeing them building stores close to their rivals in a way they have not done before, leading to more intensive competition."

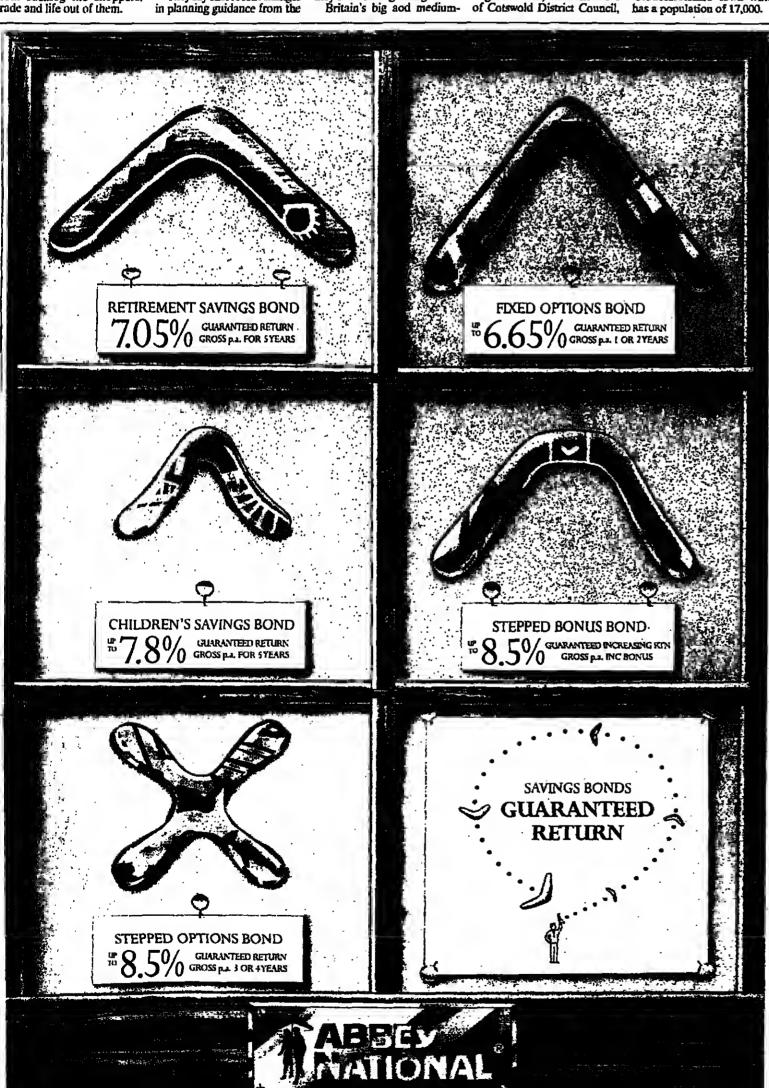
The other councils involved in the initiative cover Hexham, Clitheroe, Great Malvern, Okehampton, Tavistock and Leominster. Leominster traders have already lannched a loyalty card to try and win customers back from an out-of-town Safe-

crucial test case for the Gov-

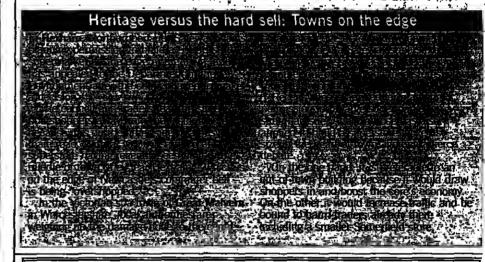
Ross Davies, director of Ox-ford University's Institute of Re-venting out-of-town developmeot. Recently, the district council refused planning peropment next to two of its out-of-town-superstores. The. developers appealed and there was a public inquiry. Now a fi-nal decision is awaited from the Secretary of State for the Environment - and it will probably not come until after the election.

The supermarket chains have argued that they may be beloing the smaller towns by building in or next to them. That, they stay, can stop local residents driving to larger towns cearby which already have superstones. If they stay in the area to do their major grocery shopping, they may also be inclined to do other buying there too.

ay superstore. spokesman, said: "We will sup Circucester will provide a point these studies flowns all the



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THIS WEEKEND'S



In Italy, nothing sells newspapers so infallibly as stories about the ailing Pope. Andrew Gumbel explores the strange world of the Papal paparazzi

Plus: pop, politics, and posing: Nicholas Barber reports on the latest obsession of Damon, Liam, Noel and the rest of the Britpop aristocracy

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Police chief heading for a brief encounter



Law man: Ray White, new president of the Association of Chief Police officers, wants to expand DNA sampling and video interviews in court

Photograph: Rob Stratton

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WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

Jason Bennetto hears top officer's plan to curb aggressive barristers

Police chiefs are to campaign for a jury than reading out a state-new laws to restrict lawyers ment from a notebook or an aufrom aggressively cross exam-

They will also be pressing the Government to introduce a major expansion of DNA sampling and will be promoting greater use of video interviews of witnesses and defendants in

Ray White, the Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys, and the new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), revealed some of the main aims of forces in England and Wales for 1997 in interview with The

Mr White takes over one of the most powerful jobs in policing at a time when chief constables have the ear of both the Tories and Labour. In the run Howard, the Home Secretary, and his shadow, Jack Straw. have been falling over themselves to take up issues raised by police chiefs, be it the right to silence, CS sprays, or a na-

tional crime squad.

They know that law and order will be an important election issue and that the backing of the police is vital. It is therefore an ideal time to push and promote ideas and aims of the

One of Acpo's priorities in 1997 will be to improve conditions for witnesses. Mr White believes a new law is needed to restrict lawyers' ability to question witnesses in an aggressive or abusive manner. The police would like a new set of rules that specify how far barristers can go.

They believe this will belp endants to testify at trials. However there will be concerns that if cross examinations are restricted then people who are lying could escape de-

Mr White said: "Barristers . are becoming increasingly more intimidating and cross-examine: innoceut witnesses in a way "The rules of conducting the

a set of rules that restrict crosshow the police have to deal with The call follows a series high-

profile court cases. In September a barrister was criticised by a judge for claiming that a dental nurse terrified by a stalker kked the attention of men and had behaved like a "queen bee. Mr White also wants to ex-

dard evidence in court. He believes this will be far more crimes and help elimi convincing and transparent to pects," he said

dio tape,
"We ought to be fully moving into the video age," he said. The police will also be press-

ing for better conditions in

arate rooms, and faster court procedures to limit the time taken for a case to reach court.

Mr White, 56, took over as boss at Dyfed Powys seven years ago. His force area covers about two-thirds of Wales which has seen crime cut by 32

enviable 57 per cent. Born and brought up in the Isle of Wight, the son of a builder in a family of five, his ambition to join the police started at the age of 14. Five years later, ignoring the advice of his school to go to university, he joined Hampshire police.

and the detection rate rise to an

me," he said.

Married with two grown-up sons - one a policeman - and a keen rugby supporter, colleagues say he "lives and breathes policing 24 hours a day". He considers himself

He takes a most powerful police iob when chief constables have the ear of Tories and Labour'

firmly conservative over issues such as drugs.

In the next year he intends to argued there's too much gloom and doom about crime". Mr White questioned the repeated assertions by the Tories that they have boosted the numbers of bobbies on the beat. He said: "During the lifetime of this government there's

been substantial increase in police manpower but most of these increases took place in the

Another_of Acpo's cam-aigns for the forthcoming year is for a new law to allow the po-lice to take DNA samples from prisoners already convicted of crimes involving violence, sex. or burglary as they are re-leased. The Government has pledged to do this for sex offenders, although a proposed bill now appears to bave been

esses and to use this as stan- prehensive DNA database. It

informative:

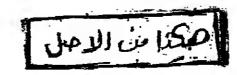
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Stone of remembrance: Anish Kapoor with his work at the St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue in north-west London

Photograph: Andrew Buuman

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APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA

Reflections of a memorial to the Holocaust

David Lister Arts News Editor

Deep black stone, coocave shaped, with a polished interior that reflects the viewer upside down; this is the Holocaust memorial sculpted over two years by former Turner Prize winner, Anish Kapoor.

The memorial, in the fover of St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue in London, will be dedicated in 10 days' time, on Remembrance Sunday, in a service attended by the Israeli, German and Austrian ambas-

But behind the finished work lie eight years of debate and l-searching over the form of a memorial to commemorate the dead and have a message for future generations.

The synagogue's shortlist for the £25,000 commission re-sembled a shortlist for the Turner prize itself, with the final choice between two former winners, Kapoor and Anthony Gormley. Gormley's propose sculpture, involving a pair of hands, was deemed too figurative, compared with Kapoor's abstract and elemental work. For both the rabbi, David Goldberg, and the 42-year-old artist - himself half Jewish - the

journey towards a fitting memorial was a painful ooe. Rabbi Goldberg said: "It

took a long and very, very painful time. Holocaust survivors at the synagogue felt no memorial could be adequate, no artistic representation could represent the horror they had been through. But teachers generations.."

ishing touches to his piece yes terday. The memorial has been sculpted from a block of black limestone from Kilkenny and has been hallowed out to create an empty space. For the first time, in his work, Kapoor has polished the interior to make it

"Any memory can only be a come an icon, but should prompt remembrance both for the survivors and succeeding generations. Stones are dumh, et they can mark a place where

remembrance can occur.
"It was a difficult commission What do I know about the Holocaust? I'm a different generation, a different kind of Jew [born in Bombay, he is on his mother's side the 15th generation of an Iraqi Jewish family] but it is my history, and is my

"One can't give form to that public grief. It always turns into sentimentality. Grief is private. In a sense, grief

Old breast cancer treatments are best

Liz Hunt Health Editor

A 100-year-old treatment for weast cancer increases longerm survival for some prenenopausal women with the esearch which suggests that was the first "clear evideoce" loctors and patients may want that ovarian ablation works. o reconsider this outmoded

Scientists have shown that switching off" the ovaries in ounger women who have ear-/ (operable) breast cancer can ave substantially more lives han if they are left functioning.

The finding adds to the growig evidence that hormonal unipulation of early breast ancer may be effective in preienopausal women. Until reently, the focus has been on hemotherapy following surgiil removal of the tumour in nunger women, and hormon-I treatment was believed to be such less effective than in est-menopausal women.

However, scientists have and that for every 100 preenorgusal women with cancer iat had not spread beyond the reast and whose ovaries are opped functioning (known as olation) by surgery or radioerapy, an extra six would be ive 15 years later compared th those whose ovaries are left

In womeo whose disease had read to the lymph glands per 100 treated in the ovarian

ablation group over 15 years. Dr Mike Clarke, a senior scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical trials 'service unit in Oxford, who led fisease, according to new the study, said yesterday that it

> The researchers analysed th results of more than 2,000 women under 50 with operable breast caocer. According to the report in tomorrow's issue of The Lancet, more than 52 per cent of womeo who underwent ablation were alive 15 years after treatment compared with 46 per cent of those who did not

Dr Clarke said the technique was not in routine use and the Department of Health was unable to say how many women with breast caocer undergo ablation each year, but it was not widespread.

Further research is needed to determine if ovarian ablation is of value used in conjunction with chemotherapy or radiothera-

mation ... Meanwhile we can say with certainty that where ad-juvant therapy for early breast cancer is not routinely used, the value of ahlation following hreast surgery is substantial and persistent."

power, a young mother sheltering in a tractor cabin in northwest Bosnia knows what the really important issue is tonight: how to keep her shivering and vulnerable toddler safe from disease and infection

biting cold. She has been living on the edge of life since October. when she was forced to flee her home in Velika Kladusa - with only five minutes to pack a carrier bag - and huddle with 22,000 other people along five kilometres of road in undergo the Ireatment. Klupjensko valley.

She is one of 14,000 mothers in Bosnía and Croatia who have received baby boxes full of the basic essentials they need to help protect their children from the filthy conditions in which they are surviving: clean nappies and baby cream to soothe burning nappy rash, soap to

py, or prolonged use of anti-oe-strogen drugs such as tamoxifen. Dr Clarke said: "It is important to obtain this new infor-



wash urine-soaked babygros

and diny nappies, antiseptic for

cuts, disinfectant for the muddy

floors of their shelters...

Children in Bosnia and Croatia have suffered enough. You can help them recover.

From me to you and your child

Inside each box, packed by volumeers at Feed the Children's aid supply centre in Reading, is a message from the person who made it possible. For the exhausted, often traumatised woman who receives it, it is a potent sign that somewhere, somebody is thinking of her, and her efforts to protect her child.

"It's like a voice breaking through the isolation and hopelessness surrounding these mothers and children, saying we know how hard it is for you, we care what happens to

via British charity Feed the Children. you," explains Gaynor Jones. Volunteer Co-ordinator at Feed the Children. "They take it very personally."

the first things to spring to mind when you

think about buying presents. But for mothers in Bosnia who have almost nothing left with which to care for their children, these basic essentials mean the world. And they can be

found in each baby box sent with a donation in Britain to a despairing mother in Bosnia,

peace in Bosnia is trum-

peted in the corridors of

in appalling conditions and

So do the individuals who take up Feed the Children's invitation to send a message along with their £30 donation. Seeing those mothers in Bosnia on the television, cling ing to their children for dear

"I wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box."

life in appalling conditions, I wanted to do more than send a donation," says Karin Weatherup, who has sent a baby box, "I wanted to send a message. I wanted to say to the mother opening the box. 'You're doing an amazing job, and my family think about you every night'. Feed the Children enabled me to do that, for which I'm very grateful."

Julie Griffin was drawn to the idea of sending a baby box to Bosnia for the same reason. "I just wanted to send some love with all the practical things in a baby box. It was that personal involvement which realty appealed to me."

SENT

WITH

LOVE

FRIEND



Despite the Dayton peace initiative, mothers and young children in Bosnia trying to rebuild their lives need even the most basic essentials to succeed.



to a Bosman mother.

Does peace ir Bosnia make

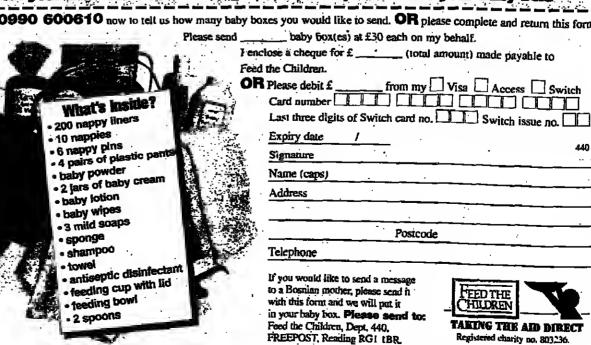
In many areas of Bosnia, peace simply means that the sbooting bas stopped. But the problem is that whole communities have been chased from their homes, and are either too afraid to return or will find only a scorched patch of earth or bombed-out shell where their home used to be.

"There are many truly lost people," says Stewart Crocker, Deputy Director at Feed the Children. "We must ensure they are not forgotten amidst the news of the Dayton peace inioative. Their needs are tremendous, especially those of the mothers and young children. They are trying to move forward, trying to rebuild their lives.

"People in Britain can take one major worry from these mothers by giving them what they need to care for their little ones - a Feed the Children

It costs £30 to send a baby box to a Bosnian mother and baby. If you would like to send one - or more, please call 0990 600610 or complete and return the coupon below. If you would also like to send a message to a Bosnian mother, please enclose

it with your donation and Feed the Children will put it inside your baby box. Calt 0990 600610 now to telt us how many baby boxes you would like to send. OR please complete and return this form



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Heritage shareout: Future assured for Kennet and Avon canal but Birmingham and Liverpool orchestras may not get funds

£25m grant unlocks historic waterway

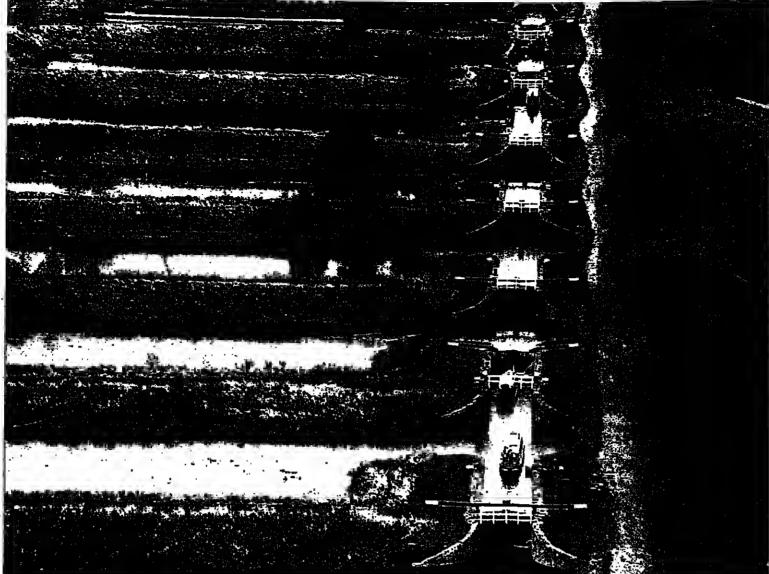
Environment Correspondent

The Heritage Lottery Fund announced its largest award to date yesterday, with a £25m grant to complete the restoration of the Kennet and Ayon Canal.

The 87 mile long canal crosses the widest part of England, linking the Bristol and English channels via the rivers Thames, Kennet and Avon. Opened in 1810, it was one of the greatest engineering achievements of the early industrial revolution. Designed and engineered by John Rennic. it in-cludes two magnificent aqueducts at Dundas and Avoncilf, and the famous flight of 20 leader. flight of 29 locks which take it more than 200 feet up a hill at Devizes. But within a few decades the Great Western Railway, which runs parallel to it,

opened and the canal's decline began, Most of the money will be spent on major engineering works, with nearly £10m devoted to strengthening and underpinning the earthen and clay embankments which carry large lengths of the canal above ground level. Nearly £8m will be spent on dredging, relining of the canal sides and refurbishing locks.

"We need to do some serious preventative engineering, to make sure the canal survives another 200 years," said Simon Salem, marketing director of British Waterways which has responsibility for the structure.



Rennle's marvel: The Caen Hill locks in Wiltshire, by which the Kennet and Avon Canal climbs 200 feet uphill Photograph: John Lawrence



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Arts lose out on lottery millions

Arts News Editor

Some of Britain's best-known arts organisations may not now receive millions of pounds worth

of promised lottery money. In a potentially serious embarrassment for the Government it now looks as if some of the "good causes" that have been publicly rewarded with lottery funds may not receive the full awards, and may possibly

not receive any money at all. The organisations include Sir Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society, the Salisbury Playhouse, Cambridge Arts Theatre and Bohon Octagon, the Spacex art gallery in Exeter and Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds.

These and others were given lottery awards by the Arts Council after providing business and artistic plans showing that they were solvent, efficient and able to mount a certain number of concerts, productions or exhibitions, and would be able to pay staff to supervise their re-

PHOTOGRAPHY MAX FORSYTH

building projects. But now several have warned the Arts Council that they may not be able to fulfill all these criteria if they do not receive an increase in their annual revenue grant. Published government projections are for a £3m cut in funds for the Arts Council following the Budget later this month. And some reports in-dicate that Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, may make a cut of

up to £10m. An Arts Council spokesthat if we do not receive an increase in annual grant from the Government, we cannot give our clients an increase in grant. It is also true that this will mean some clients will not be able to

fulfill the criteria on which we awarded them lottery money, and some lottery projects could have to be curtailed, amended

or abandoned. "The Government cannot get off the hook by cutting annual arts revenue grants and saying everything is all right because of the lottery. The great good news of the lottery simply may not happen. This is because there will not be enough revenue money to sustain highquality artistic activities once the projects are completed.

A senior Arts Council source confirmed last night that the organisations listed above "and many others" would need to be reassessed if there was a cut in government grant.

Despite the gimmick of handing over giant cheques to ecstatic recipients on the Saturday night lottery television show, it does not in fact work this way at all. No money is given to the good causes until they have honoured their business and artistic plans and completed certain rebuilding work.

A spokesman at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which won a £3.7m lottery award for new rehearsal studios, said he still expected to receive the money. But he admitted that a cut in annual grant would affect "the core activity, size and quality of our orchestra At the launch of the annual

report of the National Heritage Memorial Fund yesterday, its chairman, Lord Rothschild, warned that the Government seemed to be going back on its, promise not to reduce state heritage aid and grants when lotwoman said yesterday: "It is true tery funding acrived. Unless the process of public spending cuts was reversed. Lord Roth schild said it would result in "a" spectacular U-turn on everything the Government said when the lottery was launched".

DAILY POEM

From Piers Powerbook's Prologue

By Sean O'Brien

The conference season that year was a scorcher But I wore Armani befitting the amblence, Being both journo and sensual man, And went down to the world to catch the day's wonders, To clock the main marvels and so-called enigmas.

That sweating September beside Blackpool's seafront I felt a bit sleepy, a smidgen hungover
And somewhat estranged by the night before's Es,
so by the Ramada's mezzanine fountain
I dozed like a toad in a hatbox, instead.

The dream I dreamed there was a digitized triumph: The virtual arse-end of England, a field
Of old sidings and willowherb, slathered in junk-mail. Above a great tower that inked out the sun With its finger, as meanwhile its residents sang

Like a canary-cum-corvines aloft in their carrion column. Beneath sank a festering pit like a privatized nick with community care Or a carpark, or both, A remote aspiration and here in the meantime The creatures of mad with the citizens' charter

Crammed in the puss to prevent them From biting their tongues off; not that they talk much.

William Langland's 14th century satiric masterpiece The 17sion of Piers Plowman is interpreted by eight contemporary poets at the South Bank tomorrow evening, Sean O'Brien begins at the beginning, transferring Langland's sleep-induced vision amongst the Malvern Hills of a "fair feeld ful of folk" - human society - going about its husiness between the poles of truth and darkness to Blackpool during the conference season Bernard O'Donoghue, Peter Reading, Don Paterson and Helen Dunmore join O'Brien in the Purcell Rooms at 7.30pm. Box Office 0171 960 4242.

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France confronts a blockage in the Pompidou pipe dream

When it opened it was one of Europe's most innovative buildings. Just 20 years later, the visually dramatic centre must close for renovation

on 31 December 1999, in time to greet the millennium.

> Bastille opera house - which they regard as white elephants also judged to need repair urgently. An article in yesterday's Parisien newspaper compared the duration

and cost of repairs on several of the city's oldest landmarks - the Arc de 440 million francs (£55m).

tended to lump it together with more Triomphe, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower - to support its thesis that the new edifices are not just unrecent modernist works of architecture - the "grands travaux" of François Mitterrand's presidency, such as the pleasing in appearance, but extor-Grande Arche de la Défense and the tionately expensive to maintain. Since 1992, the Pompidou Centre

More space, less art: The Pompidou Centre in Paris, attacked by

has been subject to a costly programme of exterior renovation, and much of the scaffolding is still in place. Now, interior refurbishment is needed which will cost an estimated

While the government may be di-vided on the aesthetic qualities of the Pompidou Centre, and budgetary constraints make funding the renovacion difficult, ministers find themselves having to defend it on political grounds. It was conceived under a Ganilist government and named af-ter the last Gaullist president before Jacques Chirac, Now back in power after 14 years, the Gaullists can hardly allow "their" monument to be

building is that it should be

pointed director of the Pompidou Centre, Mr Aillagon, insisted when they presented the renovation programme yesterday that the building was not only of great architectural importance, but also structurally sound. Mr Aillagon said; "The project is

many as a white elephant of the Mitterrand era; is virtually shutting down for repairs costing £55m

The minister of culture, Philippe

Douste-Blazy, and the recently ap-

excesses of Mitterrandism.



Richard Rogers: "Flexible building"

classed with what they see as the not intended to compensate for any fragility or inadequacy of the original huilding. Contrary to rumours you may have heard, there is no risk that it will fall down, or hits will fall off. It is an important and sound

> Both he and Mr Douste-Blazy were also concerned to present the project as renovation in response to rising standards of display, rising pub-lic expectations and the more diverse requirements of up-to-the-minute contemporary art forms. After renovation, they said, there would be 1,000 square metres more gallery space, more space for temporary exhibitions and more space for live per-

Mr Douste-Blazy stressed that in its 19 years of existence, the Pom-pidou Centre had been a success that had exceeded all expectations. If people had thought when it opened that it would attract 5,000 visitors a day and more than 150,000 visitors a year, they would have been incredulous, he said.



The Pompidou Centre for contemfor its "inside-out" architecture, is to shut most of its galleries for two years from the end of next year for ex-the arguments of its detractors. They tensive renovation. It will have been have always regarded the Pompidou open for barely 20 years.

Jacques Aillagon, and the French cul-ture minister. Philippe Douste-Blazy, insisted yesterday that the centre would not be completely shut for this period - visitors would still be able to take the renowned outside lifts to one or two upper floor galleries. Most of the galleries will, however, be closed for the duration, the bulk of the collection moved into storage close by, or lent for exhibitions in the provinces and abroad.

The present plan is that the cen-tre should wind down its activity from next autumn, after a hig Fernand

The virtual closure of the centre: designed by the British architect porary art in Paris, which has won Lord Rogers, whose most famous fame and notoriety in equal measure work in the UK is the Lloyd's Building in London, is a politically charged issue in France, since in appears to fuel Centre as an expensive eyesore un-The director of the centre, Jean-suited to its purpose and have latterly

Leger show has closed, and reopen Spectacular: Lloyd's of London

mortgages

Too successful, says Rogers

the last 18 months, Lord Rogers and

was at pains to insist that the proposed partial closure of the Pompidon Centre, one of Paris' most popular attractions, was "perfect-ly normal" after 20 years, writes Elizabeth Wine.

The building - which helped to establish Lord Rogers' reputation as an architect - is being refurbished and reorganised from its basement

his partner Renzo Piano have been working to "reorganise the configuration of departments" Lord Rogers added last night: The building inside has become

worn out because of its own success: we have had 7 million people a year coming through, not I million as we had expected.

changed, and they are going to lib-erate a fifth of the building by mov-ing out all of the offices which it was never designed to have." This will be topped off with some general "tidying up" of the building and redecoration, which Lord Rogers added he was "delighted"

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international

Stalinism's last bastion feels lure of free market

Richard Lloyd Parry

North Korea, the last of the Stalinist dictatorships, is not an obvious friend of Britain. With chronic shortages of fuel and food, an imploding ecocomy, and simmering military teo-sions with South Korea, it looks more like an international char-ity case than a potential City in-

But, according to reports in the South Korean capital Seoul yesterday, this is exactly what it hopes to become: diplomats from Pyongyang last week

It looks more like a charity case than a potential City investor

asked their counterparts from London for increased diplomatic representation and for assistance in broaching British financial markets.

The request came at a highlevel meeting between the two sides held in Warsaw, the latest in a series of discreet contacts intended to promote relations at a time of great uncertainty for the flailing Communist state.

British officials play down the significance of the talks but, according to diplomatic sources. they represent the latest stage in a concerted effort by the For-eign Office to bolster British involvement in a region hitherto dominated by Japan and the

United States. led by David Coates, head of the matte sources, he is keen to use Foreign and Commonwealth Korean diplomacy as a way of Office's Far Eastern and Pacif-sustaining British involvement nngyang's European Affairs China next summer.

Bureau. Among the subjects discussed were a request by the North Koreans for increased British participation in the Rajio-Sonbong Free Economic Trade Zone, an attempt to emulate Chinese experiments in free market capitalism... Shell, which has a small bi-

tumen storage facility in the port of Sonboog, is so far the only British company to invest in the area, close to the north-eastern

border with Russia and China. Mr Kim also asked for an increase in the oumber of staff in Pyoogyang's de facto diplomatic mission in the London office of the International Maritime Organisation, and for assistance in establishing a North Korean presence in British financial markets.

The British side renewed requests for the North to settle its long-standing debts to British companies, including the glass manufacturer Pilkington, which has oever been paid for providing windows to a still unformation. viding windows to a still unfioished hotel in Pyongyang.

An account of the meeting.

which took place last Thursday, was leaked to local journalists by the South Korean foreign ministry, in the irritatioo of British diplomats. Tensions have been high on the peninsula since September when a North Korean submarine was washed up on South Korean shores while apparently engaged on a spying mission.

The incursion caused nutrage in the South, which remains touchy about links between North Korea and third countries which bypass Scoul.

London and Pyongvang have conducted several meetings since Mr Coates took over the Far Eastern and Pacific De-The two delegations were partment. According to diplo-



A helicopter flies over the scene yesterday after the Fokker airliner, which was en route to Rio de Janeiro and carrying many passengers returning home for Day of the Dead (Hallowe'en)celebrations, crashed into a Sao Paulo suburb. There was no immediate clue about the cause

100 die as jet hits suburb

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

At least 100 people were feared dead after a Brazilian airliner crashed into a Sao Paulo neighbourhood yesterday, tearing through an apartment block, a supermarket and honses. Officials said all 89 passengers and six crew of the TAM Fokker were killed as well as at least

three people on the ground. "There almost certainly are victims in the houses, but we won't know for sure until we get reports from firefighters," a res-cue worker said. Many of the passengers were returning nome to celebrate the Day of the Dead today. The Mayor of Sao Paulo declared three days of

mourning. At least one foreigner, David Francis Tobolla, an American, was among the dead, said his employers, Citibank. The British consulate said there was so far no indication that any Britons had been on board.

Witnesses said TAM Flight 402, which had just taken off for Rio de Janeiro, clipped an apartment building, ploughed through the top of a super market and houses and left "a river of fire" along streets in the middle-class Jabaquara suburb. It had covered barely a mile from the domestic Congonhas airport.

Residents said that the weather was clear at the time and there was no immediate explanation as to why the aircraft

Bills drive top Russian scientist to suicide

Phil Reeves Moscow

A senior Russian nuclear physicist is believed to have shot him-self dead after spending months fighting for the survival of what was once the pride of the Soviet Union's top-secret nuclear

financial crisis in Russia The apparent suicide of Vladimir Nechai, the director of the centre, led news reports in Russia, where public anger over billions of dollars worth of unpaid wages and uncollected taxes has been mounting.

The 60-year-old scientist was ie Department, and Kim Chun in Asia, especially after the weapons research industry, found dead in his study at what Guk, his counterpart in Py handbook of Hong Kong to Chelyabinsk-70, but which has is now known as the Federal Nu-I now been engulfed by the clear Centre in Snezhinsk, a

amined by the police.

His deputy, Vladislav Nikitin,

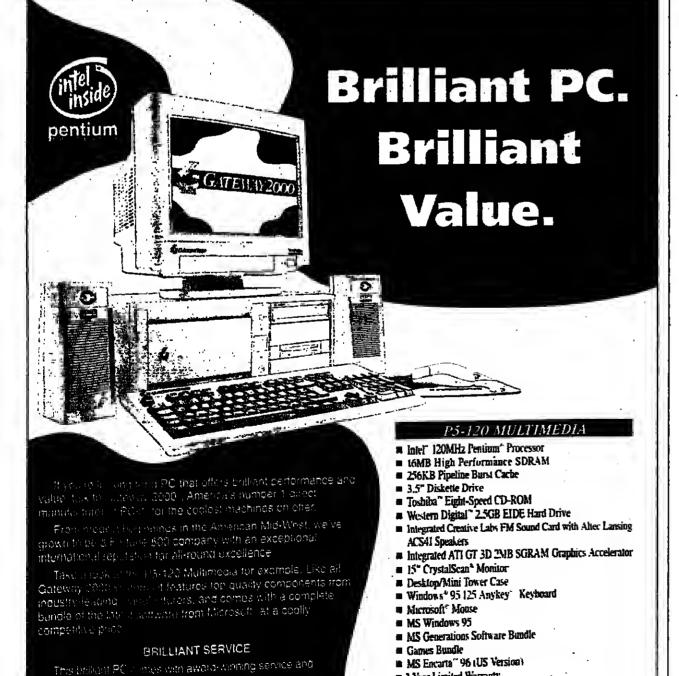
town in the Ural mountains, about 600 miles east of Moscow. A letter, found on his desk, was last night being expanding the moscow of the fiscal parliament, to [Prime Minister S5bn wage arrears bill.] Viktor | Chernomyrdin, but there has been no reply," said

Mr Nikitin, "But the situation

seen as an acute example of the cities" - nuclear weapons re-human cost of the fiscal chaos search and development cenhuman cost of the fiscal chaos in Russia, where there is a It follows reports of a sharp rise in suicides among officers

tres, which remain classified as "closed administrative territo-

As they were usually set up said Mr Nechai was under constant stress bought on by his efforts to keep the centre running. Like most of Russia's scientific institutions, its funding has collapsed and its workers and its workers are often the situation; in the agracid orces, where mile in the agracid orces, where mile approach of defeoce work in the agracid orces, where mile approach of the crisis is communities are often wholly dependant on the federally funded centres, and face total collapse ooce the money said's string of so-called "secret". expressly for defeoce work.



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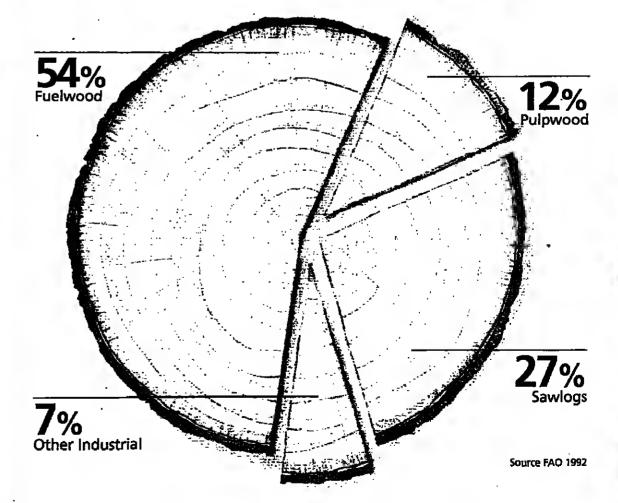
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Hutus back Zaire as rebels besiege airport

David Orr

The strategic airport at Goma was vesterday on the point of falling to Tutsi rebels as the conflict in eastern Zaire showed further signs of spreading across central Africa.
As night fell, the town faced

immineol capture and aid agencies were preparing to evacuate their staff. The airport is a vi-lal supply link both for aid agencies and the Zairean army.

The worst of the conflict had been confined to Zaire's South Kivu province where the Tutsi rebels, known as Banyamulenge, launched their insurthe provincial capital, and largescale fighting has erupted in neighbouring North Kivu.

We are in Goma now and

took Bukavu last [Wednesday]

The explosioo of mortar rounds and the sound of heavy gunfire could be heard from early morning yesterday in the outskirts of Goma, a lakeside town which is the provincial capital of North Kivu. "Our staff can hear a lot of mortar and small-arms fire from their offices in the town," said Alison Campbell of the Care aid agency who is in the Rwandan town of Gisenyi, just across the border. "But they are effectively pinned down in the town and are un-

sure wbo holds the airport." As well-equipped Banyamulenge rebels and the Zairean gency. They have taken Bukavu, army (FAZ) shelled each other's positions on the edge of Goma, it was reported that eastern Zaire's conflict oo the

lioo people, mostly minority Tutsis, were massacred by the country's majority Hutus.

some with their hands bound, were to be seen floating down the Rusizi River which divides Zaire and Burundi. It was unclear if the dead were Zaireans or Burundians, Hutus or Tutsis, but they have been floating into Lake Tanganyika for the past two weeks.

Already, Rwanda has be-come embroiled in the conflict, its troops trading artillery fire with the FAZ across the border in South Kivu. Zaire has accused the Tutsi-dominated regimes of both Rwanda and Burundi of six, which both deny.

Zaire's huge Rwandan
refugee populatioo contains

many of those who participated in the 1994 genocide. Facing

similar to that seen in Rwanda capture by advancing Tutsi in 1994 when at least half-a-mil-rebels, extremist Hutu militias and the remnants of Rwanda's routed army fled over the border into Zaire. During the past year, Hutu insurgents from the refugee camps bave beeo launching increasingly frequent incursions into Rwanda. Now it seems the Rwandan rehels fearful of retribution if they return to their homeland, are

once again fighting Tutsis, this time aloogside the FAZ. "Our staff bave had reliable eyewitness reports that former Rwandan army troops and Hutu militias are being carried to the front in buses from Mngunga refugee camp where they have been based," Alison

Yesterday, huge columns of panic-stricken refugees were said to be fleeing towards Mugunga, which with 400,000 in-habitants, is already the largest



our forces are fighting for con-trol of Goma airport," a Banyaside of the FAZ. Such a develtrol of Goma airport. a Banva-muleoge spokesman said. We gion into ethnic bloodshed

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Warlord's jets strike at Kabul

Caroline Lees Kabul

The body of the teenage girl lay in the centre of the room. Her mother, her face covered by a white mourning veil sat on the floor beside the dead girl. Stretching ber arms towards the sky, she screamed "why? why?"

Outside in the mud-walled courtyard men washed the body. of her six-year-old son, Assad. They worked in silence, pouring water from a teapot over the boy's naked frame, gently wip-ing the dust from his tiny, lifeless legs and feet.

An hour before, the two children had been eating breakfast with their father, a doctor, and a nine-year-old brother. They heard the low roar of jets overbread and drinking tea.

Then the house was hit by a 500lb bomb, which killed Malina, 16, and Assad. Their father and brother were badly injured. A neighbour's house was hit by another bomb which killed his seven-year-old son, Matine.

Neighbours and relatives stood in the destroyed courtyard Pakistan and for a proposed oil staring at the damage. The boy's uncle sobbed, the other men were angry. For the past month Kabul had been quiet and they hoped peace had fi-nally come to Afghanistan after 18 years of war, but it seems the full was only temporary.

The three children were the

first civilian fatalities in Kabul since the Taliban Islamic army took over the city in late September. They were killed by bombs dropped from jets belonging to Geoeral Abdul Rashid Dostum, the powerful Uzbek warlord, who controls the corthern provinces of Afghanistan.

He has formed an alliance with Ahmed Shah Massoud, the former defence minister who controls the former government's forces, to try to oust the Taliban from Kabul. For the past four nights General Dostum's jets have flown over the city before bombing the airport. Yes-terday morning they dropped five bombs, two of which fell on houses in the north-west of the city, and two on farmland near the airport. Only one hit it.

The raids are part of a massive offensive against the Taliban launched by General Dostum and Mr Massoud three days

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ago. The battle for control of Afghanistan is now being fought oo two fronts. The alliance forces, headed by General Dostum and Massoud, are fighting the Taliban for control of a strategic pass in the foothills of the Hindu Kush, 20 miles north of Kabul General Dostum is also moving a large oumber of his troops towards the western capital of Herat, controlled by

the Taliban since last year. Diplomats believe be and Mr Massoud are maintaining their offensive in Kabul to keep the Taliban occupied while they go for the greater prize. Herat, the ancient cultural centre of Afghanistan, is thought to be the alliance's new target.

The people of Herat are ethmic Tajiks, who have no natural allegiance to the Taliban, who are southerners. They do not speak the same language as their new rulers and have been alienated by the strict Islamic dogma they imposed upon the

Herat is commercially important as it lies on a key route for trade between Iran and pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. If General Dostum's alliance takes Herat it could also threaten Kandahar, the southern city where the Taliban has its beadquarters.

General Dostum's move follows a Taliban attempt to seize Badghis, a province north of Herat which he controls.

The Islamic fundamentalisi army may have finally met its match in Geoeral Dostum. He runs the north as his personal fiefdom and receives financial and military backing from neighbouring Uzbekistan. He is unlikely to give up any of his ter-ritory easily. Few expect the fighting to be over quickly.





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In Peking few have heard of dissident's 11-year-jail term, reports Teresa Poole

Peking - While the rest of the world was criticising China for lorking up a young dissident, ordinary Chinese people yesterday were left in the dark about the 11-year jail sentence passed on Wang Dan for "plotting to subvert the government". The authorines have ordered a news blackout on the trial, except for one report in China's only Eng-

lish-language daily oewspaper.
On Peking's busy Wangfujing shopping street yesterday afternoon, oot one of a dozeo

ord's

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'It's really not good. What will he do after he is released?

people stopped at random had heard of the trial or the sentence on 27-year-old Mr Wang. Three students from the Academy of Arts were surprised by the news. Li Ruohui said: "It's really not good. He is still so young. What will he do after he is released, he will be nearly 40?" His companions agreed.
"It is too severe," one said.

People were confused about why Mr Wang had been put on trial. His name is still well known because of his role as a student leader in the spring 1989 prn-democracy protests in the city. So, everyone assumed this latest sentence must refer back to Mr Wang's 1989 activities.

It is not generally known a-half years in jail for his 1989 role, and was released in Febrnary 1993. According to the court verdict, he used the following two years to attempt an overthrow of the government, allegedly through writing newspaper articles for the foreign press and contacting exiled disidents in the United States.

The fact that most Chinese people still identify Mr Wang with the June 1989 protests probably explains why Chinese newspapers and the broadcast media did not report Wednesday's verdict. In contrast, when China's most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, was sentenced last December to many newspapers. But Mr Wei played no part in 1989, as he was in jail at the time.

The government knows that Mr Wang's case is potentially much more sensitive, because the studeot leaders enjoyed widespread support from the local population in 1989. A woman in her forties in Wangfujing, when told about the trial, yesterday said: "It's pitiable, pitiable, He's too young." Mr Wang has been locked up for all but 27 months since he was 20.

Western countries have lashed China for the harsh sen-

tence, but Peking knows it is un-likely to face any practical censure. A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said that Mr Wang's case "has nothing to do with the issue of human rights ... I doo't think the case nf Wang Dan will have any effect on Sino-US relations.

In Washington, the White House said it was "deeply con-cerned" by the verdict, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, will visit Peking later this month as planned, but will raise the cases of Mr Wang and Mr Wei with his Chinese hosts. The department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said that isolating China would not have a positive effect on human rights.

The Foreign Office in London pres "dismersed" by the

don was "dismayed" by the heavy sentence, and France said it was as "shocking" as Mr Wei's jail term. But Europe seems resigned to the last that neither threats nor quiet diplomacy will have much impact on human rights in China, and risk jeopardising business deals. In Hong Kong, where sover-

eignty is to be transferred to China next June, the Governor, Chris Patten, said: "I recognise the very considerable concern that many people in Hong Kong ... feel about a sentence imposed on a young man for ac-tivities which in most places, including Hong Kong, would be entirely legal. The paucity of evidence on which Mr Wang was convicted has kindled fears of curbs oo freedom of speech



Cry freedom: Wang Dan, right, with members of his family in Peking in February 1993 following his release after serving more than three years for his part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement Photograph: Greg Baker/AP

King Cotton and hate bite the dust

DELTA DAYS

woods, swamps and streams, but above all of flat cottonfields stretching to the horizon, dreamy and more beautiful than ever in the soft glow of au-tumn. And everywhere the un-seen presence of the river, whose floods have left behind the richest soil in America.

This is a place haunted by ghosts, of segregation, brutali-ty, slavery. And by many mea-sures, this is still among the poorest places in America. But, amazingly, life on the Missis-sippi Delta is changing for the

Not very long ago, the blacks picked the cotton, bondsmen of hard-oosed white farmers lacking even the veneer of ante-bel-lum graciousness. People like Leslie McLemore, soo of a sharecropper who is oow a professor at Jacksoo State University, remembers those days well. Like every other black teenager he spent late summer and autumn picking cottoo.

One image especially sticks in his mind. It must have been around 1956. Some white people were driving down to New Orleans and stopped to take pic-

The landscape remains the tures. And it truly was an amaz-same; a vast alluvial plain of ing sight, a sea of people, all the ing sight, a sea of people, all the white cotton and black faces for acres and acres and acres.

"Back then a black boy was paid 25 cents an hour for a 10 hour day - slave wages. But for the family budget it was vital. The only way a sharecropper could escape was to run away

could escape was to run away at night. No wonder I had Mississippi nationalism at high school, saying to myself, 'we've got to change this damn place'.' Now, finally, it is changing. The harvest is done by machines but more important, King Cotton is slipping from its pedestal. The big money is soyabeans and catish farming and the biggest money is in gambling. Casinos are springing up along the rivare springing up along the riv-er from Tunica county in the north to Vicksburg in the South.

But the greatest change of all is in race relations. In growing oumbers, Delta Mississippians who left to seek their fortune are returning.McLemore says: "Nowadays I find overt racism elsewhere. Here I don't act any differently from any place in the world." Can this be Mississippi, USA?

Rupert Cornwell



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Judge thwarts Dispute over move to censor museum on Bardot book

A judge rejected a request by the son and an ex-hushand of Brigitte Bardot to excise passages from her memoirs branding their baby. Nicolas, a "tumour" and his father, Jacques, a "vulgar macho". They had asked for 80 pages be slashed from her 555-page Initiales B.B. under strict French laws governing privacy. The book, published a month ago, has sold 400,000 copies. Reuter - Paris Reuter - Berlin

Kurds set to extend truce

The US peace envoy Robert Pelletreau said two Iraqi Kurdish groups had agreed to extend permanently a truce declared after two months' Kurdish in-fighting in north lraq. "All participants agree to maintain and strengthen the ceasefire within a permanent context." he said.

Police fall out in Japan

Japan's police chief accused Tokyo Police Department of covering up a confession by one of its officers, who has emerged as the primary suspect in the police chief's attempted assassination. Takaji Kunimatsu was shot and seriously injured on 3t March last year outside his home. Police have failed to solve the case, although they suspect a connection with the doomsday cult whose members are accused of masterminding the gas attack on Tokyo subways. AP- Tokyo

Gestapo site

German Jews attacked the city of Berlin for halting work on a museum on the site of the Gestapo secret police. But Klaus Landowsky, head of the Christian Democrats in the city parliameot, said there was no money for the 45m-Mark (£20m) project."I do not need to be taught history lessons about Germany's coming to terms with its history," he said.

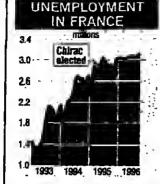
Pope to write his memoirs

The Pope is 10 publish a brief volume of memoirs covering parts of the 50 years since his ordination. They are expected to take the form of a short booklet and witt be issued by the Varican publishing house. The date of publication has not been decided. The Pope, 76, marks the 50th anniversary of his ordination tomorrow. His 1995 book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope, was an

Ozone hole going for a record

If the size of the ozone hole over Antarctica is maintaioed until the middle of next week, it will be another record-setting seasoo, the World Meteorological Organisatioo said. The hole's advance to a tatitude of nearly 50 degrees south for a few days during the past week was "an extremely rare eveot".

of working age, one of the highest rates in Europe.
Particularly worrying for the government was the 29 per cent rise in the number of under 25year-olds without a job. Even though it was September, and the first time that some disappointed school-leavers might



have registered as unemployed, the government had hoped to keep the rise down by dint of additional subsidies and training programmes.
The treod io unemployment

in France has now been inex-orably upward since Jacques Chirac was elected president and Alain Juppé became prime minister in June 1995.

This is despite Mr Chirac's election pledges to make jobs a priority to his programme to heal what he saw as the grow-ing rift between the haves and the have-nots in French society.

In his victory speech on elec-tion night, he told supporters: "Employment will be my constant concern." Io his presideotial address 10 parliament, which was presented by Mr

Juppe, he spoke of "waging war" on unemployment, saying: "I want each one of you, in your constituency, to spearhead our battle for jobs."

Mr Juppé's first policy statemeet to parliament stressed the priority of jobs, especially for the young unemployed and claimed that his other priority. cutting the domestic hudget deficit to meet the criteria for joining the single European eurrency, was entirely compatible with creating more jobs.

Over the past year, however, unemployment has risen by more than 1 per cent, oo dent has been made in the oumber of under-25s without jobs, and the government has had to recognise the futility of many of its job creation schemes and subsidies, quietly eoding many of them in the 1997 budget that is currectly before parliament.

The government's failure to fulfil what was a priority of Mr Chirac's election programme and the policy that arguably we him victory is a key factor in the government's current vulnerability and the depressed state of public morale in France.

Both Mr Chirac and Mr Juppé have called oo Freoch coosumers to help economie growth by speoding more, but fears about joh security are blamed for holding them back.

The Socialist opposition was

quick to decry the rise in uo-employment yesterday, in par-ticular the number of young without jobs. A spokesman for the Social-Opposition, Pierre Moscovidescribed the rise io

johlessness as "a disastrous

Chirac's army of jobless grows

Paris — The moothly unemployment figures published yesterday brought more had news for the Freoch government, with another 28,000 people beganded to the register in September, a rise of almost 1 per ant over August. The total ow stands at 3.1 million, or 1.6 per cent of the population working age, one of the pless rates in Europe. Particularly worrying for the fernment was the 2-9 per cent of the population working age, one of the pless rates in Europe. Particularly worrying for the fernment was the 2-9 per cent of the population of

Face on anger: A protest last month against government austerity measures

ing youth employment "an absolute priority". The unemployment benefits ageocy. UNEDIC, added to

the gloom by saying that end-of-year projections for unem-ployment would have to he Rome Although French experts pre-

dict improved ecocomic growth oext year, there are fears that this may oot affect employment. Many thousands more job losses are predicted in coming months, oot only in the hard-hit defence and huilding sectors, hut in several banks, airline companies, Moulinex and Eu-

ecocomic policies of the Juppe government" and said the So-

cialists were committed to mak-

The Mafia's £400 entry ticket to Fortress Europe

Andrew Gumbel

It could not have been a more eloqueot illustration of the problem. Hours before senior government and police officials conveoed on the southern Italian island of Lampedusa yesterday for an emergency meeting oo immigration, oearly 80 North Africans were stopped trying to land their fishing boats oo the island's wind-swept

They were the latest in a veritable wave of immigrants, almost certainly all illegal, who have made the same journey from Sfax in Tunisia to the re-mote, rocky island in the past few mooths to enter Western Europe at what is generally reckoned to be one of its easi-

est entry points.

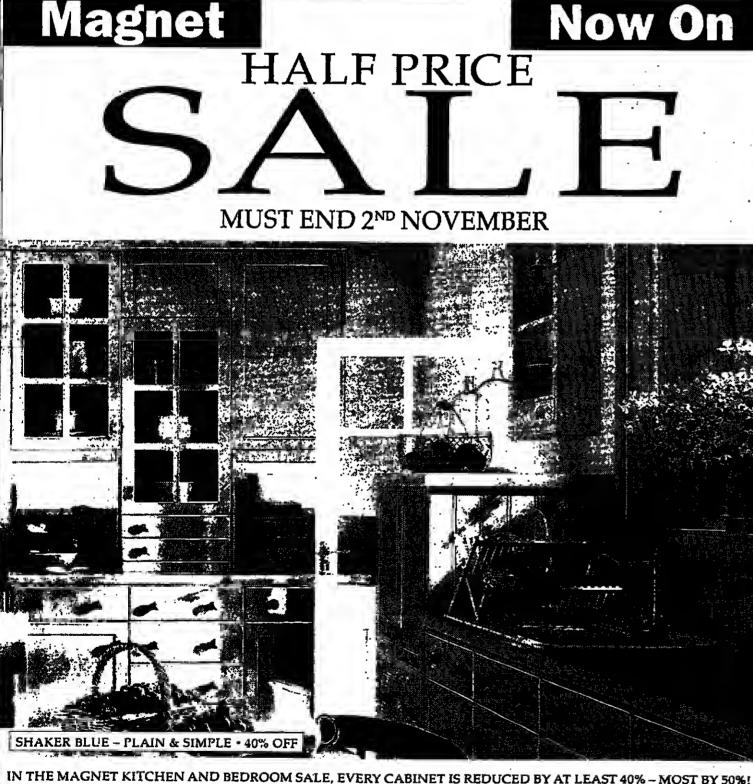
Although they were stopped

Lampedusa at dawn could safely assume they would be free in a matter of hours. According to a well-woro ritual, suspected illegals are routinely shipped from Lampedusa to the nearest large police station (coovenieotly located in Porto Empedocle in Sicily, several nautical miles closer to civilisatioo), giveo an expulsioo order and told they have 15 days to make their own way out of the country. Inevitably, they just disappear, either choosing to stay in Italy or else moving

on to Germany or France.
This is the absurd immigra tion policy that has made Italy highly unpopular with co-signatories of the Schengeo agreement and which has so far prevented it from being admit-

by the police and arrested, the ragged, weather-battered on ders among themselves, coupled operating a policy of open borders among themselves, coupled with tight controls oo outsiders. Italy hopes to become a full member of the Schengen group by March but has yet to tight en up its border policies in any

significant way.
Italian politicians, especially oo the left, and the moderate Catholie parties now in power, appear reluctant to impose any immigration policy for fear that they will be accused of repressing the weak and of helping to create a xenophobic "fortress Europe". This attitude, however, effectively takes immigration policy out of the hands of government and into the control of Mafia gangs who take payment - in the North Africa's case around £400 per head - in exchange for organising the boat trips.



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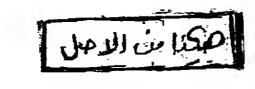
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Islamists punished in Egypt's cruel jails

Cairo - Just off the Cairo-Alexandria desert highway near Wadi Latroun, the Egyptians are building a massive oew prison with 15ft-thick walls of solid concrete, capable of holding thousands of new prisoners arrested in President Mubarak's war against his violent Islamist opponents.

The extension to the Delta prison complex is the despair of Cairo human rights groups who now fear Egypt's overcrowded and brutal prisons are being used as detention camps for men who may never face trial.

Already, up to 20,000 Is-lamists are in Egyptian prisons officially "awaiting trial". Mo-hamed Mounib, secretary general of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR), believes at least 17,000 men are being held with-

out any judicial hearing. "Eveo the minister of interior doesn't know the true figure," a coughly Street state security offices in central Cairo where the says. "He admitted he didn't members of the violeot of th know in a news-

paper ioterview. What are we to make of supply the this? We repeatedly send electric batons our reports of torture and and the cuffs. deaths Egyptian jails to the minister They know what with insects and

- to the emis going on' bassies as well, the Americans and the other

At least 30 prisoners are believed to have died from illtreatment or torture in from visitors to prevent Isyear, but Mr Mounib's group, tions to their members to carry which works with Human out new attacks against tourists. producing ever more convincing evidence that whipping and flogging are carried out routincly as collective punishments for thousands of inmates, often for minor misdemeanors. In Section 4 of Block 2H of the special High Security Prison in the Tora complex 20 miles from Cairo 20 prisoners were stripped naked and flogged with canes on their backs, feet and buttocks last June after soldiers found a pocket radio and

a watch on an inmate, Gamal Osman, a medical student. When another search uncovered a pen in the possession of Ali Naser in Block 4H - grimly nicknamed the "Scorpion" by

POWER OF 10.

Thousands are held without trial and without visitors, reports **Robert Fisk**

prisoners and warders alike - all 80 occupants of the block's cells were stripped and whipped by police officers and soldiers. The EOHR points out in its latest report that the two most senior officers of the State Security Investigation Department at the prison - Colonel Hazen and Lieutenant Colonel Abdel-Nast El-Tahawih - must know of the ferocity to which the men are subjected because both live inside the prison.

They allow inmates to be taken regularly to the notorious La-

'Gema'a Islamiya" – Islamic The Americans Group - are regularly tortured with electricity. In the "Scorpion", according to testimony from former prisoners, food is infested

distributed io dirty buckets. For more than two years, inmates of western diplomats - but they the Tora complex have been deprived of visits from relatives.

The Egyptian police author-Egyptian prisons so far this 'lamist leaders sending instruc-Rights Watch in Washington, is foreigners and the security forces. But mistreatment in cludes sadism. Men held in desert jails have complained that they are given female names by warders and then ordered to rape each other as a punishment for intringement of prison rules.

Without much hope of improvement in human rights, Mr Mounib has written to President Mubarak and Hassan Alfi, the Minister of Interior, demanding they approve all declarations of the loternational Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment, set up an independent committee to investigate prison conditions

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No Western embassy has

and interrogate police officers about the human rights abuses expected to do so. The Americans supply the

that are used in the prisons and who have beaten or tortured in Egypt's prisons - oor are any the tear gas for putting down riots," Mr Mounib says. "They even give our police the steel

used in the jails. No, we have heard nothing from the Americans. We seed them our reports. They read them. They know what is going on."

President locks up the bringer of bad news

The Venezuelan President did not like his boroscope. It said he was going to die next spring. So President Rafael Caldera, 81, locked up the messenger – José Bernardo Gomez, a leading astrologer - and accused him of plotting a coup. Mr Gomez, a 48-year-old philosophy professor with four children, had predicted the President's demise at a seminar

of bankers, businessmen and

politicians in a private think-tank. "Caldera has Pluto as-

cending. Pluto is the planet of death," he said. "Caldera will oot make it through 1997." The President's secret police hauled him off to its feared Caracas beadquarters, held him incommunicadn for 48 hours in a tiny cell, then grilled him over an alleged anti-government plot. His family feared he had been kidnapped.

He was freed after explaining the astral basis for his prediction and that he was merely warning the President to "be-

ware the Ides of March". "The most critical point for the President will be between 5 February 5 and 27 April, and specifically in mid-March," Mr Gomez said yesterday. "Mars will be in retrocess and there will be a solar eclipse on 8 March whose ef-

fects will last for three months, "If Caldera is still in power on 8 June, I'll give up astrology for good. That would mean my system is useless. Bot I'm convinced it will work. I'm not specifically saying The President will die. It could be a sym-



bolic death, if he leaves power for whatever reason. He's over 80. It's natural he's going to die sooner rather than later."

Ironically, Mr Gomez, Pres ident of the Venezuelan Astrologers' Association, was one of the few who predicted Mr Caldera's surprise 1993 election. His spell in jail has made him a celebrity.

"Most people think the President's reaction was absurd," he said. "I'm just a star-gazer."

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Marcel Carné

It was Marcel Carne's destioy (a word be himself, an indefatigable romancer of fate and its vicissitudes, would not bave found too strong) to witness the unity, cohesion and ultimate meaning of his work devastated by the event its ominously pregnant atmosphere had so vividly anticipated - the Second World War. Once, arguably, the most esteemed of all French film-makers, the standardbearer of the movement known as "poetic realism", the direcfor responsible for having provided published histories of the cinema with a few of their most haunting and haunted stills (which is not, of course, quite the same thing as making great films), he found himself divested after the war of both his talent and his reputation - "dis-incarnated", as the critic André

Bazin pertinently and punningly put it. What is more, his increasingly precipitous post-war decline was to be accompanied by a corresponding critical devaluation of his once unassailable pre-war classics.

During the Fifties the revisionist young iconoclasts of the influential journal Cahiers du Cinéma (who were later to be-come the leading film-makers of the New Wave) claimed that these had been the creations less of Carné himself than of his scenarist, the poet of populist Surrealism, Jacques Prevert. That they were not truly realised films d'auteur, the inner visions of an artist transferred directly on to celluloid, but mere illustrations, bowever brilliant, of another man's scripts. That the iconography of "poetic realism" - a pungent iconography of

(studio-recreated) working-class neighbourhoods, of sad rainswept cobblestones, of leathercoaled, cloche-batted "ladies of the night", of deserters, Legionnaires and petty criminals, of the inarticulate amour fou of the proletariat - was essentially a middle-class mystification, synthetic and depoliticised.

And when the polemic surrounding his career finally ebbed into silence and indifference, instead of emerging afresh from the Purgatory to which he had been unceremoniously consigned, Carné van-ished into a limbo of almost total neglect.

Perhaps the easiest manner of judging whether the indictment was unjust or not is to ask oneself what it is one remembers from the most characteristic of his films. From Quai des brumes

(1938), for instance, one remembers Prévert's dialogue for Jean Gahin and Michèle Morgan - Gabin: "Where are you going?" Morgan: "I don't know." Gabin: "Ah, I'm going your way..." – but also Carné's indelible image of Morgan in ber ethereal white cellophane raincoat framed against the window of a café. From Les Portes de la nuit (1946) one remembers Carné's meticulous reconstruction of the Paris Metro in which practically all of the action takes place, but also the nihilistic cynicism of another Prevertian exchange (between Pierre Brasseur and a passerby):
"What's happening?" "Oh,
nothing A woman drowning."
From the early Jenny (1936) one

remembers the graceful non-chalance with which a gentleman

removes his monocle to kiss a

young woman on the cheek, and from Drôle de drame, a Gallic "Ealing comedy" made in 1937. Louis Jouvet's much-anthologised line: "Bizarre? Moi i'ai dit bizarre? Comme c'est bizarre!" Oce remembers too, from lennv. Jean-Louis Barranit as a dondiffed bunchback who cannot bear to see a woman shed tears because no woman has ever shed tears for him and, from Les Visiteurs du soir, a medieval fantasy made in 1942, Arletty, incomparably chic in doublet and hose, drawling in her carthy oasal whinny: "Dia-a-aable ...!" One remembers the tiny street-corner botel in which a suicidal Gabin holes up during Le Jour se lève (1939) and the exuberantly, unrepentantly cor-rupt Jules Berry with his troupe of performing dogs from the same film. One remembers the naggingly plaintive soundtrack scores of Maurice Jaubert and Joseph Kosma, and the flaccid Gauloises Bleues dangling from world-weary faces, faces whose lines can be read like those of a hand, and one remembers above all the astonishing number of Carné's and Prevert's characters who have cause, at one moment or another of the narrative, to sigh "C'est drôle la

These films then, impinge on our consciousness above all as memories, memories often as potent and unshakable as those of our own private lives; and if, as we know, memory sometimes plays tricks, if the original films, regarded strictly as works of art, not as repositories of unforgettable moments, are probably rather less innovatory than. many less familiar works of the same period, it is, after all, the merogative of memory to be un-fairly partisan. In any case, when the mythology of a film-maker bas so seamlessly comcided with the mythology of a whole nation, it would be about to attribute the responsibility solely to the work of a scriptwriter.

Indeed, where Carné's most

not even his detractors have been prepared to belittle the director's contribution. Les Enfants du Paradis (1945) might perhaps be described as the French Gone With The Wind, except that it happens to be an infinitely superior work. Filmed during the Occupation under extremely hazardous conditions and set in Paris's notorious "Boulevard dn Crime" of the 1840s, Les Enfants is a melodrama of unsurpassed sumptuousness, recounting the futile passion of the mime Deburau for the courtesan Garance (Barrault and Arletty giving two of the most brilliant performances in chema history) against a sweeping, panoramic vision of Parisian society, its monde and its demi-monde, the world of the theatre and the underworld of crime. No one has some syndroid crime. No one has ever grudged this film its undying reputation. Of Carné's postwar output, however, it would be difficult to

offer much of a defence, whether of the dated, backward-looking romanticism of Juliette ou la Clé des songes (1951) or his doomed endeavour to keep abreast of the times with two grotesquely implausible studies of disaffected youth, Terrain vague (1960) and Les Jeunes Loups (1968), 1968! It seems inconceivable that the man who directed Arletty when she uttered her famous "Atmosphère, atmosphère . . . l'' on the Canai Saint-Martin bridge in *Hôtel du* Nord (1938) could still have been at work 30 years later while Magist students were manning the barricades along the Boule-vard Saint-Michel: C'est drôle

When Marcel Carné embarked oo Les Enfants du Paradis in 1943, he and his scriptwriter, ever made. Jacques Prévert were under instructions from the German Occupation forces to make an "escapist" film, writes Mike Goodridge. It is hard to believe that the lavish work that resuited was made under such opcherished film is concerned, pressive conditions. Only three

days after shooting began in Nice, the United States invaded Sicily, thus forcing Carné and his crew to return to Paris. When he returned to Nice in November 1943, he found the set so badly damaged by storms that it had to be completely rebuilt. The Germans were present throughout shooting, in an effort to ensure that every ac-tor and crew member belonged to a collaborationist union; the production designer Alexan-dre Trauner and the film's composer, Joseph Kosma, were Jewish, so their involvement had to remain secret. Following the fall of Mus-solini, the Nazis exerted further

pressure by banning Italo-Fran-co productions. Shooting was also subject to a 7 o'clock curfew which ruled out night scenes. By the time it was pro-micred in March 1945, it was the most expensive Freoch film

Working closely with Trauner, Carné evoked Paris a century earlier when Louis Philippe was on the throne. Its title referred to the workingclass poor who sat in the gods of the Théâtre des Funamhules, loudly shouting their dis-

dain or approval for the plays and entertainments on offer. Many saw it as a thinly veiled celebration of free speech and independence.

"A strange mixture of the beantiful the esoteric and the downright dull," declared Hollywood trade paper Variety in 1947 when the film was screened in an edited version cut down from its original 195

minutes to a measly I44. Now, of course, it is considered one of the greats - at its original length - and is fre-quently cited on critics' lists as one of the best films of all time. As early as 1952, it was ranked 14th best film ever in a survey conducted among film directors by the Festival Mondial Du Film et des Beaux Arts de Belgique. But its enduring popular appeal lies not as a cerebral study of theatre but in its cen-tral romance. A 1993 revival at a handful of cinemas across Britain managed to gross an impressive £114,000 - more than most new foreign language releases.

habe cim

Marcel Carné, film director: born Paris 18 August 1906; died Paris

Sir Roderick Barclay

Most people who knew Roderick Barelay associated him with Ernest Bevio, whose Private Secretary he was at the end of Bevin's time as Foreign Secretary (1949-51) and about whom

he wrote a sympathetic memoir. Within the Foreign Service he was perhaps hest known to my generation of post-war entrants as head of the personnel department (1946-49), since he was probably the first member of the Fereign Office that we used to go and consult him oo new entraots called on. In my behalf of Sir William Strang in ease, after sending me off for a the early Fifties about some imspell ahroad, Barelay brought me back into his own department where he proved to be a most agreeable boss, educating

the juniors mainly by example. Barclay was a surprising choice as Bevin's Private Secretary since, at first sight, he and his intended master had nothing in common. Barelay was the epitome of the pre-war diplomat - Harrow and Cambridge. fairly tall with a convential moustache, speaking with a slight drawl, addicted to shoot-

ing and tishing. He himself was far from confident that he would win Bevin's approval. But in the event he was probably the most successtul of the exceptionally able men who served Bevin as Private Secretary. He had the knack of calming his master down as Barclay: Harrovian panache

well as the essential gift of interpreting to the rest of the Foreign Office and to Foreign Mioisters and Ambassadors what Bevin wanted to say or do. It is to the credit of both meo that they achieved such a close and effective relationship.

There was in fact more to Barclay than met the eye. I recalled that he sometimes gave the impression of being vague or even lackadaisical when I portant incoming telegram. But in a very short time a well thought-out draft reply would be produced and I realised that Barclay was a clever man who chose not to seem clever. I be-



lieve that his ability as a senior official adviser came out especially in the early Sixties wheo very strong team for the oegotiations in Brussels to attempt to join the EEC.

Barclay's career in the service eoded with his two embassies, first to Denmark and then to Belgium for five years, where he and his wife occupied the de-lightful bouse which was then the embassy, both comfortable to live in and well adapted for diplomatic entertainment. Lady ess, dignified, considerate and also very competent - eveo inducing George Brown to behave with reasonable decorum when staying at the embassy.

The Barclays undertook several demanding social entertainments during their time in Brussels, including a State visit by the Queen in 1966 and the ball which formed part of the ceremonies commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. This took place on the anniversary of the Duchess of Richmond's famous ball on the eve of the Batle of Quatre Bras. and was a very brilliant affair.

Nor did they neglect the export promotion side of the emhassy's duties. It was during a British week" in aid of exports that Lady Barclay demonstrat-

("The Bewitched"). King of Spain, 1700; John Radeliffe, physician and founder of the Radeliffe Library, Ox-

ford. 1714: Alexander Cruden, com-

piler of the Bible Concordance,

17.0: Salomon van Ruysdael, painter, buriet 1670; John Lindley, botanist and writer, 1865; Alexander III, Tsar of Russia, 1894; Christian Matthias

Theodor Momasen, historian and ar-

chaeologist, 1903; Alfred Jarry, poet,

novelist and playwright, 1907; Ezra Loomis Pound, poet, 1972; King Wallis Vidor, film director, 1982; Phil

Silvers, comedian and actor, 1985. On

this day: the Bank of Scotland was founded, 1095; 60,000 people died

when Lisbon was destroyed by an earthquake, 1755: San Francisco bay

was discovered by Gaspar de Porto-

ta. 1769; the Congress of Vienna opened, 1814; the first W.H. Smith bookstall opened at Euston Station, London, 1848; Lloyd's Register of Shipping was first published, 1884; the first issue of Woman's Weekly was

published. (911; licences for radio sets were started in Britain, 1922; a

republic was declared in Turkey by Kemal Pasha, 1922; the British Tele-

vision service was inaugurated, 1936; Puerto Rican nationalists attempted

to assassinate President Truman

1950: the first London production of the musical show South Pacific was

staged, 1951; the first Premium Bonds went on sale, 1956; the first

section of the M1 motorway was

opened, 1959. Today is the Feast Day

ine, St Benignus of Dijon, St

of All Saints, St Austremonius or

Cadfan, Saints Caesarius and Julian,

St Marcellus of Paris, St Mary, mar-

TVT. St Mathurin or Maturinus and St

ed ber equestrian skill by driving a Whitbread's two-horse brewer's dray around the Park Royhe was one of Edward Heath's al - an unusual feat for an

Photograph: Sygma

After retirement in 1969 Barclay resumed touch with the family bank for which be bad originally been destined and became chairmao of Barclays Bank in France as well as taking oo various other business commitmeots. He theo had greater leisure to enjoy family life at his bome in Bucking-bamshire and to shoot and fish there and in various other parts of England and Scotland. He was a fine shot and maintained his skill to a very late age. In-deed he retained all his (aculties to a late age and kept up his interest in his old service through one of his daughters. who had married a diplomat.

Roddy Barclay was an exceptionally moe man engagingly modest but with a certain Harrovian panache which carried him through some awkward situations.

Alan Campbell

Roderick Edward Barclay, diplomat: born 22 February 1909; CMG 1948, KCMG 1955; CVO 1953, KCVO 1957, GCVO 1966; married 1934 Jean Gladstone (died 1996: one son, three daugh-ters); died 24 October 1996.

Professor Cormac O Ceallaigh

Cormac O Ceallaigh, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, was one of the most distinguished physicists in Ireland. His research field was that of cosmic rays and elemeotary particle physics, to which subjects he made many seminal contributions.

The soo of a prominent Dublin obstetrician. O Ceal-laigh's career as a scientist started at University College, Dublin. His postgraduate research was carried out at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge from 1935 to 1938, after a year in Paris with the great French cosmic ray physicist, Pierre Auger. At Cambridge, O Ceallaigh worked in the field of ouclear physics, coming directly under the eye and the influence of Lord Rutherford. A. brilliant scholar, he gained an 1851 (Commonwealth) Fellowship, the award being announced to him by Rutherford in a chance encounter with the admonitioo "I see that you've

wangled it again, O'Kelly!" After some years as a lecturer at the University of Cork, O Ceallaigh joined C.F. Powell's group at Bristol, from 1949 to 1952. This was something of a golden era for physics in Britain, when revolutionary new discoveries in cosmic rays oc- hit on flights of the US Space per cent of the prodigious energy

curred almost daily. Of several important experiments undertaken by O Ceallaigh, one regarding the nature of the neutral particle (neutrino) emitted in the decay of an elementary particle called the pion, stands out and has ramifications to this day. The exact nature of this ocutrino remains a puzzle: it impacts on the observed deficit of oeutrinos from the sun, and on how very massive stars, in their final death throes.

explode as supernovae. In 1953, O Ceallaigh took up the post of Semor Professor in Cosmic Ray Physics at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. There he continued his association with Bristol University, concentrating on the study of the superheavy nuclei in the cosmic rays (those heav-ier than iron and nickel), using special plastic detectors carried in the stratosphere by unmanned balloons in very long flights (sometimes even cross-

ing the Atlantic). These experiments continued through the 1960s and early 1970s, to be followed by even more ambitious ventures. Huge detector arrays, 10 square metres or more in area, were prepared by O Ceallaigh and his colleagues in Dublin, to be car-ried and launched into earth or-laigh's work came full circle: 99



Shuttle. Intended for a one-year exposure, due to various failures the equipment was to stay in orbit for six years before being recovered. This had the fortunate sequence that it provided by far the most prolific data available on the fluxes of the very heaviest nuclei.

In particular, these included ouclei heavier than hismuth (those in the actinide series. such as uranium, plutonium and californium). We believe that these are produced as a result of very rapid neutron capture processes which occur, and only occur, in the course of supernova explosions.
In a sense therefore, O Ceal-

released in a supernova outburst is in the form of invisible neutrinds; and although not yet fully understood, our computer models of the explosive mechanism - whether it blossoms or stalls - seem to depend critically on the nature of those ocutrinos and their interactions: indeed, precisely those questions that O Ceallaigh had been addressing in a quite different context 40 years previously. In 1951, O Ceallaigh was elected Fellow of the Royal Irish

Academy. He was also a Council Member of the European Physical Society, and a Boyle Medal winner.

Many of us will remember him as an accomplished and. brilliant speaker at international conferences, with a mordant wit and great sense of humour. Aside from physics, Cormac O Ceallaigh's diverse tastes included linguistics, cabinet-making and gardening; and his passion for sailing was such that he and his late wife Millie arranged to race in different classes of boat so as not to compete with each other.

D.H. Perkins

Cormac O Ceallaigh, physicist-born Dublin 29 July 1912; married 1939 Millie Carr (died 1987; three daughters); died Dublin 10

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

RefWATREE: Francis St Dominie OBE, died 25 October 1986 after a short illness. Lowing husband of Saro-jun, dear Darf of St John, Kevin, Car-oline, and Justin, dear sort-in-law of Arcelina Secram. Funeral to be held on Frida S Neuvenber Domathors of desired for Action Aid, the Woodland frust or the British Diabetic Associ ation. Empiries to B & C Funeral Services. Shottleld. Telephone UF14 270

Angumerurate for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGEN & HEATTIS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Inthe winning in the Collecter Euros; the in-dependent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London E14 SOL, telephoned to 0171-793 2011 i 24-bour answering ma-chine #171-793 2012 or fraced to 0171-793 2810. Changes are 0a.50 a line (VAT extrat.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales, on behalt of The Queen, behit in Investings of Buckingham Palace Princess Marginet, President, the National Science for the Presention of Cruchy to Chalten, opens the Domesace Social Services Department National Seviety for the Prevention of Cruchy to Chalten, Therapeutic Centre, May Verice, Domesace, and attends a reception of the Domesace Meanager and Domesace Meanagers, Patron, Alchemer's Dosese, Science Society, North Epicsule, and opens the new Vereinary Centre of the People's Dispension for Sack Animals at Society and Grand Charles, Gateshead, Free and Wear. The Duke of Kend, Charachy, afterd the Street, Candidord, Survey.

Chaptering of Alan Guerrel.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavaire Mounted Regiment trooms the Oncon's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham. Birthdays

Mr Umberto Agnelli, deputy chair-man of FIAT, 62; Sir Hugh Bidwell, former Lord Mayor of London, 62; Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, for-mer Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, 77; Admiral Sir John Bush, 82; Miss Victoria de los Angeles, soprano, 73; Mr Nigel Dempster, gossip column writer, 55; Mr Michael Denison, actor, 8t; Mr George Dobry, former circuit judge, 78; Mr Lau Donaldson, alto saxo-phonist, 70; Miss Tazeena Firth, stage designer, 61; Mr Bruce Grocott MF, 56; Lord Harmar-Nicholls, former MP. 84; Mr David Harris MP. 59; Mr Alec Higgins, underwriter, 82: Mr David Hobson, former senior part-ner, Coopers and Lybrand, 74; Sir Wynn Hugh-Jones, former diplomat, 73; Mr Roger Kellaway, composer and pianist, 57; Mr Andrew Knight, former executive chairman. News International, 57; Dr J. Dickson Malon, former government minister, 71; Miss Naomi Mitchison, novelist, 99; Mr Nick Owen, journalist and broadcaster, 49; Mr Gary Player, golfer, 61; Mr John Pullen, rugby player, 55; Mr James Ramsden, insurance company director and for-mer Government minister, 73; Mr Gerald Ratner, former chairman,

Anniversaries Rirths: Benvenuto Cellini, sculotor and goldsmith, 1500; Pietro da Cortona, painter and architect, 1596; Nicolas Boileau-Despreaux, poet and satirist, 1636; Antonio Canova, sculptor, 1757; Gustav IV, King of Sweden, 1778; Jules Bastien-Lepage, painter, 1848; Madame Alhani (Marie Louise Cecile Emma Lajeunesse), soprano, 1852: Stephen Townley Crane, author, 1871; Laurence Stephen Lowry, primitive

painter, 1887; Edmund Charles Blun-Lectures den, scholar and poet, 1896. Deaths: Giulio Romano (Giutio Pippi), painter, 1546; Salomon van Ruyschel, painter, buried 1670; Charles II

National Gallery: Julie Barlow,
"Wind (i): Turner's Calais Pier: An
English Packet Arriving", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Alun
Groves, "European Ceramic Tiles",
2.30pm.

Tate Gallery: Nicholas Penny in dis-ucssion with Alistair Laing, "Italy in the British Interior", Ipm.

Receptions

Council of HM Circuit Judges and the Association of District Judges Judge Simon Fawers, President, the Council of HM Circuit Judges, and District Judge Dick Greensinde, President, the Association of District Judges, were hosts of a reception of the Council of HM Creant Judges and the Association of District Judges held yesterday evening at Middle Temple Hall to celebrate the 150th anniverary of the introduction of county nomical Recovery of Small Debis 1846. Amongst those present were:

Lord Mackey of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Josuec, Lord Woolf of Barnes, Master of the Rolls; Lord Justice Analy, Lord Justice on the letter, Lord Junice Anni, Lord Justice Hearts, Mr. Justice Kriscooth Mr. Justice En-wurth: Mrs. Justice Steel; Mr. Justice Asmilt; Mrs. Justice Bracewell; Mrs. Justice Sandt; Mr. Justice Fortes; Mr. Justice Maurice Kay; Mr. David Pany-Davey QC, Mr. J. A. Griffing, Sar Thomas Legg QC, Mr. Michael Huebuer.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.19pm.

United Symposures: 8171-387 4300. Federathan of Synapopers 10181-202. 2563. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synapopers 9171-550 1643. Relieva Synapopers of Great Briesius 10181-349-4731. Synapopers of Great Briesius Congregations 0177-1389 2573. New London Synapoper [Masoriti: 0171-328 1026.

No term to be implied into yearly pay deal Alf v Christian Salvesen Food

Services Ltd; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Otton) 18 October 1996 Lord Justice Waite said the em-

In the case of an "annualisation agreement", freely negotiated on an employee's behalf by his union, under which he was paid a standard weekly wage throughout the year hut the hours worked each week varied according to seasonal fluctuations in demand, but which made no provision for adjustment where the employment contract was terminated hefore the end of the year, it was not possible to imply a term that the employee should in such circumstances be paid pro rata for the actual hours worked

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the employer, Christian Salvesen Food Services Ltd, against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (1996) ICR 1) and restored the decision of an industrial tribunal on 7 December 1993, dismissing the complaint of the employee,

if these exceeded the weekly

Osmond Ali Peter Wallington (Edward Lewis, for Sarah Booth, Edinburgh for the emplayer, Andrew Glennie (Nicholsons, Lowestoft) for the employee.

LAW REPORT

ployers were engaged in the processing and storage of veg-etables. They had a workforce of about 150 at their cold store and factory in Lowestoft, Suffolk. They negotiated with two unions, the AEU and TGWU, collective annualisation agreements to run from 1 June 1992. These provided that the workforce, which had previously been paid on a traditional arrangement as hourly paid workers entitled to overtime if and when worked in any particular week, should thenceforth be paid a standard wage (varying according to the grade of employee) on the basis of a roster providing for a total of 1824 hours over the year. The hours and wages were calculated broadly on the basis of an average working week of 40 hours of the year, adjusted to take account of holiday

enotiement No specific provision was made in either the collective agreement or the individual employment contracts incorporating it, for the eventuality that an employee might cease. work for any reason before the a case where the contractnal 12 month period was completed and the 1824 hours worked.

Mr Ali was made redundant at a time when he had worked only 22 of the 52 weeks on his roster. He claimed the hours he had worked over that period exceeded the norm of working hours by reference to which his standard wage had been cal-culated, and he was entitled to be paid pro rata for that alleged

The appeal tribunal held there ought to be implied into his contract a term entitling an employee whose employment was terminated by the employers before the end of the pay year, to be paid the standard bourly rate for the bours actually worked by him in ex-cess of 40 hours per week. In his Lordship's judgment, the importation of an implied

term depended, in the final analysis, on "the intendon of the parties as collected from the words of the agreement and the surrounding circumstances" (Chitty on Contracts, 27th edn,

vol 1, para 13-003.) The agreement itself was wholly silent as to coosequences of premature termination. This was not therefore documents created by their wording an internal context in

favour of or against the implication of the proposed term. As to the surrounding circumstances, it was crucial that this was a collective agreement negotiated across a broad front for a substantial labour

force. It represented a carefully negotiated compromise between the employees' desire for an assured weekly wage spread over a long period regardless of hours worked, and the employers' desire to avoid the high cost of overtime rates for work done at periods of peak demand.

Such an agreement must be concise and clear, so as to be readily understood by all concerned. One would expect the parties to set their face against attempts to legislate for every

possible contingency.
Should any topic be left uncovered, the natural inference was not that there had been an omission so obvious as to require judicial correction; rather, that the topic was omitted advisedly from the terms of the agreement, as being too controversial or complicated to justify any variation of the main terms to take account of

This was o very plain case against the implication of the proposed term.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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EMU: out of the seminar, into the street

he single currency is just around the corner, and it looks as if Europe is finally waking up to the face Across Europe, the signs of strain are evident as the real implications of moving to a single currency for Europe show to p political, economic, social, diplomatic and financial implications that go far beyond what most people had imagmed. Dehates that have been rumbling along in one form or another the past half-decade are suddenly starting to converge. The effects of moving towards a single currency are not coming next year, or next century, but right now. In fact, demonstrably, they are with us this week.

Let's look at those converging debates. The first is the discussion between governments and central banks over the terms and conditions under which monetary union can take place. Yesterday, the European Commission decided that France could use an accounting fudge to get its public-sector accounts into shape for EMU - to the unhappiness of several other EU members, including those in Britain who fear for the effects on our economy if we do eventually decide to join.

The second dehate is within governments, within national political parties, about whether to join. The Labour Party has become much firmer and more explicit in its views over the past few days, with its own muted brand of Euroscepticism stepping to the fore, while frontbenchers start to stake out their

position statement. Much the same is happening throughout Europe. Those countries that can join are having to work out whether they want to; those that want to are having to decide if they can. In Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Belgium and indeed everywhere on the Continent, that means making political decisions that will split parties and governments.

The third area of controversy is essentially social, but flows from the economic consequences: what will be the impact of joining, or even trying to join, if it means years of fiscal austerity? Lord Healey's dire warning of riots and mayhem, made in the House of Lords, referred explicitly to the example of France, where austerity has already brought people out on to the streets, and will do so again. Unemployment in France shot up to 12.6 per cent in September, a massive leap, leaving the prime minister, Alain Juppé, even more concerned for his political future than he already was.

All of these are alarm calls, signals that the seminar phase is over, and the political phase is underway. The ordinary people of Germany and France are regstering their disquiet about the effects of preparing for the single currency, and in four or five months the British electorate will do the same.

Even in the City the onward march of the euro dominates strategic planning where questions of pension liabilities, conversion rates, computer systems, exchange-rate exposure, trading systems position. The Government also looks as and the location of trading facilities are if it is winding up for a more decisive all under active discussion. The previously



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

arcane question of what instruments a future European central bank will use is now a real battle between Britain and Germany. Jobs. money, politics and diplomacy make a combustible mixture.

Here, it is easy to have the impression that every significant issue of controversy has already been aired; but that is not really the case. The costs and benefits of oming will only really become apparent over the next few months, as the last pieces in the jigsaw are assembled. Monetary union is going to happen: whether we are inside or out, the consequences will be enormous. There will be no status quo ante to hang on to. Of course, we are well accustomed to

the positions held by those who have fought within the Conservative Party over recent months. That proper argument has now been stilled, but it cannot remain under a lid for very long. More intriguingly, this week, we are starting to get a smell of the emergent opinion within the Labour Party, that the first tranche of entry to the single currency should be viewed as anyone who joins in the first few years - that seemed to be what Robin Cook was proposing at the weekend, and also Margaret Beckett subsequently. That might prove to be a good ruse, and not only for the British - in essence, to accumulate entrants over the first few years, but regard them all as first-starters.

Whether the French and Germans will go along with it, though, may be doubted.

The caution that Mr Cook and his friends demonstrate is well founded. There is much that we still do not know about monetary union, about its politics, its economics and its practicalities. But we must stay aware that the debate in Britain is lagging some years behind events in Europe. We have failed to get to grips with monetary union until now. There is a desperate need for the issues to be thrashed out; we cannot afford to have them silenced by party leaderships that fear seeming divided during the run-up to the election. Indeed, the election should in great measure be about this, the higgest decision Britain will take in the second half of the Nineties. But there are supporters and opponents of monetary union in both major parties. The Con-servative leadership's fragile compromise with its sceptics, and the desire of Labour's leaders to appear contrastingly more Euro-positive, has obscured discussion. The new signals from Labour are to be welcomed, because they show that the debate is now moving from the level

of rhetoric to practical commitments. To those who have been immersed in Maastricht and all that since 1990, the arguments are already well rehearsed. Bot that is not the point. The most significant lesson so far from the monetary union argument is that little of this is understood by those whom a single currency will affect - consumers, workers, citizens. The indications in France and Germany are that the political elites have been running ahead of the voting population - that voters are only now turning round and protesting at the effects on them of tightening public spending to come in line with the demands of a new central bank. How much further behind, then, are the British public? Going ahead without the people's understanding and consent is a huge risk, but that is precisely what is being planned in Brus-sels, Bonn, Paris and elsewhere. It is a risk that those governments seem ready to take; it is a risk that has not yet been contemplated here. We have a compaign starting. We have to make sure our own political elite does not duck the question.

Millennial dilemmas

Fow would you celebrate the millen-Inium? Some would like to build a vast inverted saucer with a lot of gigantic cocktail sticks poking out the top. Others suggest a vast street party (on the Mi. perhaps?) nr tides on a Ferris wheel higher than St Paul's. John Butcher, a former minister, who has recently been on a monastery retreat, says we should shut down all TV transmission for a few days, and regard the event as a vast national escape, an enforced weekend of meditation. His idea would surely lead to half the nation running amok, while the other half collapsed in despair. As the old song says, maybe we should call the whole thing off.

Fair jobs deal for

In a recent interview with another

national broadsheet it was put to me

each of the sexes within my company

determining factors in deciding who got the post, but that I would happily

employ a man if they were under-represented in the workforce, or a

woman if the reverse were true. I do

not believe, and nor have I ever, in

the positive discrimination he so

(Rossendale and Daggen, Lab)

Sir: In the not unlikely eveot that

planet fails to get him a job, may I suggest a less desperate remedy, We Aidans are an under-

represented minority if ever there

suffered the anguish of being the

only Aidan wherever I have hved.

endlessly addressed as Adrian. The

lack of role-models in public life (at

Aidan Crawley) is a further wound

Next time Rankin goes for a job

know how many Aidans are already

employed there. If oone, his case is

studied and worked; not to

mention the trauma of being

least since the death of the late

to our self-esteem and barrier to

interview, he should demand to

our advancement.

surely overwhelming.

AIDAN FOSTER-CARTER Shipley, West Yorkshire

Lockless car

hand drive Simca 1000 cor

when he left England.

simple rotary bakelite

imported from France by an

acquaintance who sold it to me

This splendid little car was a

key, let ainne steering lock, but a

ignitinn/starter switch. Apparently

trust was the norm as late as 1963.

stolen from my driveway, on the

very night it was being loaded up

for a holiday journey to its native

France, It was recovered, minus the

luggage, by the local gendarmerie,

who were not amused by its drive-

away/take-away facility.

FREDSUETT

Livrpool

in rural France such unthinking civic

Not surprisingly the car was soon

source of amazement among friends

when they realised it had no ignition

Sir. John Humbach's memories of

motorcycle and a crimcless 1950s

Golden Age reminded me of my

acquisitinn in 1968 of a 1963 left-

his lockless 1957 Triumph 500

was one. For almost 50 years I have

himself as being from another

Aidan Rankin's falsely representing

Shadow Minister for Wonten

vehemently condemns. JANET ANDERSON MP

House of Commons

that if I was faced with a male and

female candidate of equal ability,

who had interviewed identically,

would I employ the woman? I replied that the representation of

could certainly be one of several

men and women

Sir: Aidan Rankin's article (29) October) misrepresents my views

on equal opportunities.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Europe can save TV from Murdoch

Sir: Europe is the hest place to look for an answer to the question "What will the politicians do?" in response to BSkyB's plans to launch a digital "set-top box" ("There are just days until Murdoch's digital TV conquest", 29 October).

When I tabled an amendment in the European Parliament to the TV standards draft directive two years. ago demanding that a common interface should be part of the licensing requirement for every digital decoder box, it was defeated on the grounds that the technology wasn't ready at the time.

Now it's here, we in the European Parliament are urging a rewrite of existing European law to ensure that every broadcaster can reach every citizen on their own terms-in a free, not a rigged market. In this we are confident of success. Martin Bangemann, EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, is oo record as declaring that an obligatory common interface is now necessary. The British government should follow this lead and produce

convincing safeguards.
Potential purchasers should be warned that the boxes may soon be worthless as the licence to use them may be withdrawn when any such European law is translated into British legislation. CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London East, Labour) Socialist Group Co-Ordinator on Media, European Parliament Ilford, Essex

Sir: You are right to stress the importance of digital broadcasting and the risks of dominance of the

Viewers will choose to take their programmes through different delivery systems. Some will choose to take them from digital terrestrial broadcasting, some through satellite and some through cable. Each delivery system will cater for the particular needs of different groups of viewers. The BBC has a remit, through its Royal Charter, to provide public service broadcast programmes, free-to-air, to every viewer in the United Kingdom that we can reach. That remit remains as valid in the digital age as it does

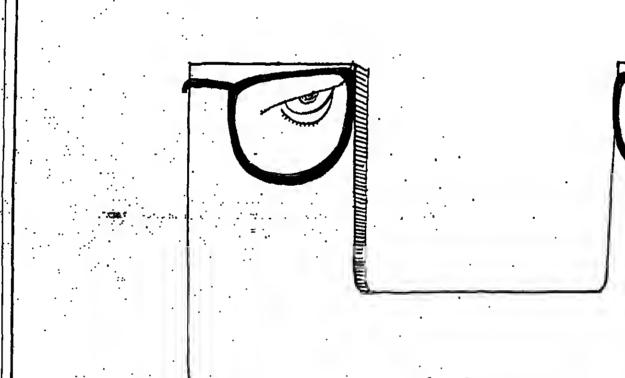
The BBC is making a sizeable investment in digital programmes to give the viewer better picture and sound quality, and to provide the viewer with new free-to-air channels and services.

Every licence fee payer with a digital set should be able to receive these, regardless of the delivery system they have chosen; it would be absurd of us to ignore satellite in

this respect. The BBC has played a leading role in developing digital terrestrial technology. We are strongly committed to digital terrestrial, which we believe will enhance

viewers' choice. We have also taken the lead in pressing the politicians, both at Westminster and in Europe, to put in place a regulatory regime to encourage the take-up of digital on all systems and maximise competition and viewer choice. Some progress has been made, but more still needs to be done if audiences are to be the true beneficiaries of the digital age. COLIN BROWNE Director of Corporate Affairs, BBC London W7

Sir: As Bruce Springsteen once sang, 57 channels and nothing



Michael Heath's Britain: Major U-turn

oo". ("But who really wants all this oew technology?" 29 October). Who wants Nicam Digital Stereo, widescreen or cinema-quality pictures when the quality of programming is so low? I would oot mind having the old bleary blackand-white set if there was something worthwhile to watch. Two hundred channels of lowgrade television cannot he described as consumer choice. Who needs new technology? Not me. Who needs more than two channels? Not me. Who needs television? Now there is a question

BUT I DON'T

UNDERSTAND,

EVERY ONE

THINKS

M. NON-U

Children who will not learn

HENRY GIRLING

London, SE6

Sir: I resigned from a career in the Royal Navy five years ago, for the sole purpose of going in to teaching, and eventually took up a post in a comprehensive school. The staff had to contend with the

most dreadful ill-mannered, foulmouthed, boorish, and at times violent conduct, and yet had to maintain the most meticulous standards in their responses. Those children who really wanted to progress were of course held back by the minority, and your leading article "The deal was to educate" (25 October) highlights the problem very clearly.

Though more money is needed, on its own it will not provide the solution. Two badly behaved pupils in a class of 30 can easily take up 90 per cent of the teacher's time and effort. If parents really want the best for their children, then they must actively support teachers. By that I do not mean blindly, nor .

without proper criticism (for out all teachers are wonderful), but at least in the pragmatic realisation that their childreo's own selfinterests are best served if they behave in a reasonable manner. Parents must take responsibility for their offspring, and stop blaming bad behaviour on bad leaching. LAN M PERRY

Corsham, Wiltshire Sir: Home-school agreements ("Teachers to continue their strike over boy", 31 October) mean that a child's future is linked to the parents' behaviour. So the way out of a bad home through education will be denied to the very children who need it most.

I feel despair to hear these calls for discipline and the right of parents and teachers to beat children, set against the horror of Rikki Neave's death. Had that child lived he would, no doubt, have caused maybem in the classroom. Under the new proposals, he would have been excluded from school, and, if the Right has its way, beaten by his

Psychological support costs money. Providing jobs for a nation of forgotten, angry teenagers costs money. What on earth are we to do man election year when stickingplaster philosophy is all that politicians want to apply?
ANN MILNES ROBERTS ledburgh, Borders

Sir: I feel quite incensed at seeing the large photograph of a disruptive boy being given

prominence on the froot page of your newspaper (29 October). It would seem to me to encourage his feeling of power and importance, making the already almost impossible task of teachers trying to instill discipline eveo more difficult. To me it is thoughtless, irresponsible iournalism. BOUGHTON

Chesham, Bucks

Sir. This week we have heard of the possibility of a return to corporal runishment in schools. The Government has also announced that it is in favour of parent-school contracts, making parents more responsible for the behaviour of their children during school hours. Why not take these two proposals a natural step further and cane parents whose children breach these contracts? SPMITCHELL

At the trough

Carshalton, Surrey

Sir: That Belgium is "run co political patronage", as reported by Sarah Helm (28 October), was confirmed this week by the Prime Minister, Jean-Lue Dehaene. Commenting oo the somewhat indifferent food prepared for him at his official residence, Dehaeoe explained that the chef had only receotly retrained and was in any case "the nephew of my secretary" (Le Vif Express, 25 October). DR COLIN LOVELACE

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime selephone number.

Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independers.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Fair wind for turbine power

Sir. I must correct John Etheringtoo (letter, 26 October) with regard to wind power in Britain. The land required to generate 10 per cent of total power demand from wind power is just 25 square kilometres. By comparison, more than 3,500 square kilometres of the UK is covered by roads, and griculture takes op 185,000 square

Furthermore, to generate 10 per cent of our energy from wind would require not 40,000 turbines but 10,000. There were 10,000 windmills in Britain at the beginning of the First World War. TRICIA ALLEN Friends of the Earth London NI

Zoos safeguard wild animals

Sir. Your article about animal adoption in zoos (26 October) failed to mention the real beoefits to animals, zoos and people. Whilst funds generated via animal adoptions contribute towards feeding, bousing and veterinary care for 200 animals, the real benefit is that funds which would otherwise be used to supply this care can be released to help zoos carry out their primary role of creating awareness about the natural world and the necessity to conserve it.

Also, by adopting animals, the public become more interested in the natural world, and more likely to appreciate the need to support conservation. It is incorrect for Les Ward of

Animal Advocates to imply that zoos are not contributing to conservation in the wild. This year. via the Tiger Week Appeal, the Federation of Zoos and its member-collections have raised over £65,000 for wild tiger conservation in India, Sumatra and Siberia in partnership with Global Tiger Patrol and Tusk Force. Since 1989, members have raised over £5m to support 69 projects in 36 countries by supplying not only money but also husbandry and management skills, staff and equipment for habitat and species conservation in the wild. NICK LIACKSON Chairman, Federation of Zoos London NW7

Phone fury

Sir: BT appears to have reinvented "call waiting" several times in its brief existence, now apparently ending up back where it started (Leners, 29 October). At one point it did something,

very like what is recommended by Mark Trevorrow - that's when I gave it up. If the recipient chooses not to answer, the caller, hearing only a ringing tone, assumes there is no one there, or there is but they won't answer. For a small business like mine that is disastrous. Perhaps the answer is to give the customer a choice -1 seem to remember that's what privatisation

of BT was all about

Dunblane, Perthshire

ALAN P HOWES

Ignored in US

Sir: To underline Godfrey Hodgson's assertion that UK affairs matter little to Americans ("He's not our Uncle Sam", 25 October), it is interesting to contrast our daily news bulletins on the US presidential election campaign with their reporting of John Major's victory in 1992. I was in New York, a UScity more internationally aware than most, and it merited just a quick mention on local TV news stations, after a more significant story about a minor injury to a baseball star. PHILIP MOSELEY Sunton, Surrey

A lucky kinda guy

At his lowest ebb, a reporter asked Bill Clinton: 'Are you still relevant?" Soon afterwards, the Oklahoma bomb put the reins in his hands, writes Rupert Cornwell - and he hasn't let go

my last campaign". But watch him blow over a crowd like a force of nature, and you can't helieve the man will not be out there in the year 2000 on Al Gore's hehalf, or running for UN Secretary-General, for head of the county school board, or for whatever office, elective or otherwise, that may be contested by a youthful and vigorous former president of the United States of America.

Campaigning is not in Bill Clinton's blood, it is his blood. The vision of him idle is as improbable as the thought two years ago that he could now stand where he does: barring an act of God or a late swing in the voters' mood unprecedented in American history, on the hrink of seemingly certain reelection, perhaps by a landslide. Not since Franklin Roosevelt in 1932 and 1936 has a Democrat Lyndon Johnson in 1964 has the party been able to dream of a triumph of such dimension. And neither was coming back from the politically dead.

Consider for a moment Clinton's plight in that wretched November of 1994. A couple of months before, he had been humiliated as his healthcare plan, the intended cornerstone of his domestic presidency, did not even make it as far as a congressional vote. Then the forces back Congress for the Republicans for the first time since the Eisenhower era. Democrats fell like flies: not a single Republican incumbent was defeated.

journalist's question at a White House news conference only twisted the knife: "Sir, are you still relevant?" As events have since shown he is - for the two reasons which in conjunction will save any politician: be knew his trade, and be was lucky.

Never, never, never underestimate Bill Clinton. He had been written off before, when he lost the governorship of Arkansas in 1980 after n single term, and when Gennifer Flowers and his Vietnam non-draft threatened to destroy his presidential candidacy in February 1992. In early 1995, he again seemed doomed. But once again, he rescued himself by willnower and an ability to learn from his mistakes.

Helped by the same political consultant who featured in his home state comeback in 1982. the now infamous Dick Morris, Clinton in 1995 and 1996 similarly moved back to the political centre. And somewhere along the line he learnt his joh. The turning point may be dated to 19 April 1995, the very day after his relevance was queried. when a terrorist bomb exploded in Oklahoma City.

Clintoo has a vacuum cleaner for a mind, and a razor for an intellect - but perhaps his pre-eminent political quality is his ability to empathise with others. It showed when he mesmerised Newt Gingrich in their early encounters, as the Speaker would later ruefully admit. It showed last week as he spent precious minutes of a crowded campaign day convincing one woman why he was right not to outlaw hitterly con-

the national tragedy of Okla-boma City, Clinton became a national leader, in grief, compassion and resilience. Instinctively, the people looked to their President, and he did not fail them. At that moment, the proverbial "hubble" that seals in the aura of the office at last snapped tight around him.

And then there has been sheer, damned luck. Who could have predicted that Gingrich and his young Turks in Congress would so disastrously overreach, imposing two massively unpopular government shutdowns in the name of a revolution that the country did not want? More easily predictable was the nomination of the Republicans' elder statesman, Boh Dole, even though the ineptness of Dole the campaigner has exceeded the direst fears of his own supporters.

nt luck allowed Clinbloodletting of a priwithin Democratic ranks, and luck kept General Colin Powell, his most dangerous potential opponent, out of the 1996 Republican field.

In foreign policy, too, where presidencies are rarely made but easily destroyed, he has been fortunate. During his first term, no American soldier has died in an American war, Saddam Hussein has been an irritant easily squashed. Russia has oot fallen apart. By luck or judgement, Clinton made the right call in Haiti, and a pax Americana of kinds has been imposed on Bosnia. If in the Middle East and pinned on him.

the economy. As he plotted the abroad, or devastating scandal and at peace, at home and versy, be it over the firing of the hearings, muckraking journal-business cycle, the Almighty at home, so solid an economy abroad. White House travel office staff ism and special prosecutors must have bad Bill Clinton in makes a sitting president all but mind. The recovery from the 1990-1991 recession showed up three months too late to save George Bush. If finally the recovery is running out of steam - as the very latest figures seem to suggest - it is doing so too late to help Bob Dole. In between, everything has

invincible.

gone right. In almost every speech, Clinton intones the litany: 10 million new jobs, the budget deficit at its lowest in 20

years, interest rates low, and nflation contained. Justifiahly, too, he may claim that his \$500hn deficitcutting package of 1993, for which not a single Congressional Republican voted, was partly responsible.

"It's the economy, stupid," was the mantra of 1992. So it is now, and so it will always he. Short of military bumiliation

As a result, moreover, pub-

lic optimism has blossomed, as a majority of voters declare the country to be "oo the right track". The tranquil mood is confirmed by polls showing that no one issue is uppermost in people's minds. Crime, education, health care, jobs and taxes all have their devotees, and Clinton is on the right side of most of them. Adroitly - and here the skilful politician resurfaces - he has co-opted every popular Republican policy idea, be it law and order, welfare reform, or a balanced hudget. What is left for his opponents, White House spokesmen label 'extremist". All of which has made it impossible for Bob Dole to convince Americans that a change is required - not

question of "character", both of the man himself and the White House he leads. It is, beyond dispute, a very good question Buddhist nuns and others.

ew doubt that Bill Clinton has strayed from the marital bed, and books have been written about Whitewater and related shenanigans in Little Rock and Washington. A proclivity to be all things to all men and a craving to please are not ingredients of moral constancy. Even now that the presidential hubble has closed around him, Clinton can appear slippery and shifty, the "Slick Willie" of old, as bard to

nail down as a jelly to a wall. Few administrations bave attracted such ethical contro- four years of congressional

ination, we reach the famous tial files from the FBI - and. most recently, campaign con-

tributions as dubious as they

are large, from Indonesians. "Where's the outrage?" asks a bewildered Dole, reciting his own litany of 30 Clinton associates and administration officials under investigation, indictment or in jail. Bill Clinton may have no convictions, the joke

runs, but you can't say that about his friends. But once again Republican politicians misread the people. Ever since George Bush was sinking to defeat four years ago, they have tried to make the Clinton character the defining issue. But constant hammering makes a man hard of bearing.

Americans know full well that

Bill Clinton is no angel. But

And so, by a process of elim- or the plundering of confiden- have failed to produce damning proof of anything.

The populace, in short, has better things to worry about as the second candidates debate in San Diego proved. Despite repeated invitations from Boh Dole, not one of 20 questions from the audience addressed the matter of Clin-

ton's character. Maybe Whitewater will mar his second term. Maybe Hillary will be indicted. Maybe even, as Ross Perot proclaims, 1996 will be a rerun of 1972, when an incumbent president re-elected by a landslide was forced from

office by scandal. More prosaically hut more probably, if the rule of re-elected presidents bolds, his second erm will be a disappointment. But that is for tomorrow. This is Bill Clinton's last election, and be's going out in style.



The world is becoming smaller Distances are diminishing. No matter how varied different cultures may be, we are all citizens of the blue planet. In 142 countries all around the globe, people rely on Tissot watches. For instance, on the Tissot Ballade Chrono: enticing elegance harmoniously combined with a sporty touch. Watch Tissot and watch the world.



Michael Howard is not Michael Howard



Miles Kington

recently speculated on the reasons why Michael Howard behaves the way he does - ie, like a man who is deliberately trying to bring the Home Office into disrepute. I came to no conclusion. Unlike the anonymous writer of a letter to me, who claims to know the

What was very interesting about this letter is that it came from n mole deep inside the Home Office. I have no clue as to who he is. I have had the letter tested for fingerprints, DNA.

bull semen, etc, but whoever sent the letter is a professional and there is no trace of any cine.

when the country is prosperous

Except, of course, the contents of the letter itself. I leave you to judge that for yourselves. Here it is.

Dear Mr Kington, You have correctly observed that Mr Michael Howard has, over the years, done less than justice to the post of Home Secretary. He has behaved wildly and erratically. He has fired

heads of the Prison Service on a whim and paid them compensation under duress. He has seemed to think that prison is the only answer to crime, just when everyone else seems to con-

clude that prison actually causes crime, and has embarked on mad schemes to build more prisons at buge expense, thus causing more misery and suffering and needless retribution. He has evolved his

policies in order to satisfy the baying for blood of the mob in the street, until even the mob in the street stands abashed and quiet at Mr

He has tried to take the law into his own hands so often that it has taken the combined strength of all the

judges to get it back out of his hands again. You probably know all this by now yourself. It is not news to you. But there is something else you do not know, which is known only to a favoured few of us working here at the Home Office. Here it is.

As you know, Mr Howard is not afraid of criticism. In fact be thrives on it. The ruder people are, the more he grins and the more he thinks of ridiculous new policies. Like many people who are convinced of their own righteousness, and you may well think of John Birt in this connection, they think that opposition to their ideas

proves they are right. But Mr Michael Howard has a weakness. He is afraid of physical assault. Indeed, like many another weak but self-inflated man, and you may well think of Hitler and Mussolini in this connection, be is afraid of assassination.

Yes, he genuinely fears that there may be an attempt one banged up too long in jail and newly released; perhaps by some outgoing judge maddened by Howard's

intransigence. But Michael Howard genuinely believes that there are people out there mad enough to get him. To this end, he has hired, not bodyguards or security.

men, but lookalike Michael Howards! Ridiculous though it sounds, he has sought out several men who are the spitting image of him, down to the moon eyes and the cunningly mad smile and the big chin and the tasteless spectacles, and paid them to appear on all occasions when he was due to appear in public: to open new prisons, for instance, or detention centres for immigrants, or

boot camp sales ... Every time you thought you saw Michael Howard on the podium on the news, it was actually a lookalike Michael Howard!

But there is worse to come. We at the Home Office now think that Mr Howard has actually been

We think that it happened about a year or two back.

committed by one of these Micbael Howard lookalikes. who promptly stepped into his shoes and carried on doing the same job - ie, looking and sounding like Michael Howard - but at a

much higher salary. Whoever the man is who has been masquerading as the Home Secretary for the past year or two, be is a brilliant impersonator.

The only snag is that be is not a brilliant Home Secretary. In fact, as you have noticed, he is an increasingly erratic and hopeless Home Secretary, which is what you would expect from an

unemployed actor.
That is the situation as it stands at present. A situation for which there is no precedent. Frankly, we are at

a loss what to do. Should we unmask the "Home Secretary"? Should we have him locked away? Should we even have him assassinated, as he did

Michael Howard? I will let you know what we decide.

Yours etc ... Personally, I can't wait.

ahundre of meas judgen

A hundred years of measured judgements

ewspapers rarely look back at the judgements they made on great events of the past, perhaps because it is usually too embarrassing. We get things wrong. Given the time-scale to which newspapers are written and the range of subjects tackled perhaps our record is understandable. But what about the more measured judgements that we print in the form of book reviews? Books. despite the explosinn of electronic media, remain the main clearing house for new ideas in the world, and the role of reviewers is, literally, critical in enabling that great clearing

house to operate. But reviews do something more. They tell us not only about the ideas in the books themselves, but they give us a glimpse of the society into which they were launched. So to read old reviews is not just to enjoy the game of "did they get it right?", but to catch a feel for the whole culture of the

One hundred years ago The New York Times launched a new section on books. It had published reviews before, hut these had been scattered through the news columns. The paper's new owner. Adolph Ochs, decided that they should be brought together in a special section. To celebrate that decision, the paper has now republished a selection of its book reviews over the last 100 years. which, thanks to a friend in New York, has just winged its

And what a thrill it is, Let's apply three tests; what did the paper's reviewers say about what is arguably the most imporant political tract of the century; about the popular novel that was made into the century's most successful film; and about what many would claim was the definitive American novel of the century?

The first is My Battle, the book we know bet-ter by its German title, Mein Kampf, by Adolf Hitler. The judgement on this (the English language version, published in 1933) actually stands up very well. The reviewer, James Gerard, sketches the troubled history of Germany from the Thirty Years' War to the humiliation in 1918, and argues that Hitler's rise can only be explained in that context. *Germany is a camp, unarmed, perhaps, but one great milltary camp, psychologically, if not materially, ready for a war of conquest and revenge. Hitler could not have attained such power unless he represented the thoughts and aspirations of a majority of the population."

The reviewer acknowledged what Hitler had achieved: "Hitler is doing much for Germany. his unification of the Germans, his destruction of communism, his training of the young, his creation of a Spartan State, his curbing of par-liamentary government, so unsuited to the German character; his protection of the right of private property are all good; and after all, what the Germans do in their own territory is their own business, except for one thing - the persecution and practical expulsion of the Jews."

Some of the tone, knowing what we know now, might seem a little odd, but the reviewer dal - right back in 1933 - correctly identify the potential ghastly catastrophe of Hitler's rule: what we now call the Holocaust. To his great credit, the reviewer went back

Hamish McRae

From Adolf

Hitler to

Scarlett

O'Hara, The

New York

Times book

reviews pro-

vide a cen-

tury's worth

of insight

into the

spirit of

the day

to the German edition of Mein Kampf and noted the omission of many hostile references to the Jews in the English language version. Even so, there were pages and pages of vitriol, which are correctly and chill-ingly identified in the review. "It is with sadness, tinged with fear for the world's future, that we read Hitler's hymn of Now test number two. The

book is Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell. Here is how the (anonymous) review starts: "This is beyond doubt one of the most remarkable first nov-els produced by an American writer. It is also one of the best." Not had, particularly since the review highlights the fact that it is "a bounteous feast of excellent storytelling". that "Miss Mitchell's real triumph is Scarlett O'Hara, a heroine lacking in many virtues

in nearly all, one might say,
hut courage ...", and that she
made Rhett Butler "credible and alive". How, one thinks, with such a hulls-eye of a review (which must surely reflect the way the book struck other contemporary readers) could MGM executive Irving Thalberg say to Louis B Mayer, when he heard the latter was planning the movie; "Forget it, Louis. No Civil War picture ever made a nickel"?

Test three is The Great

Gatsby, by F Scott Fitzgerald, Perhaps it is impossible to set a novel into its historical context until the social ideas of the time have moved on, but here the reviewer, Edwin Clark, acknowledges the book's ability to capture the feel of an age,

hut does not really spot its utter specialness. It is "more a long short story than a novel." Fitzgerald himself is "the steadiest performer and the most entertaining" of the new novel-ists, but he is one of a hunch. The reviewer admires Fitzgerald's skill and craft; he notes the remarkable way in which the background of the central character. Jay Gatsby, is hardly sketched, but his obsession with Daisy Buchanan is explicitly identified. Clark can see that there is some factor X in the novel, something that sets it apart, but his conclusion: "A curious book, a mystical, glamorous story of today" suggests that he does not really know

what that is. (But, then again, do we now?)
My own score for these three reviews would
be a slightly flawed hit, a bulls-eye, and a near miss. But all are of the highest quality. These three tests surely show that this hit of the great clearing house of the world of ideas was doing

And the boobs? To their great credit, the editors of this collection also tell us of some of the less successful reviews that the paper has carried in the last 100 years. Reviewers managed to savage, among others, H G Wells' The Invisible Man. E M Forster's Howard's End, JD Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, Joseph Heller's Catch-22, and most recently, waited a year before gracing Robert James Waller's The Bridges of Mudison County with any review

But getting things wrong surely doesn't mat-ter. Whal matters is to take writing seriously. Does any British or American paper offer this quality of thought today? Is there not too much clever, elever glitz, mutual back-scratching, point-scoring, and the settling of private squabbles? I sometimes fear so.

If only everyone were as good as me ...

by Suzanne Moore

like to be known as Suzanne Moral. Moore, I feel implies a hedonistic liber-tarianism quite out of step with today's uptight tempo. I might as well call myself moral. After all, every one else is. It's a drag hav-ing to cram myself into the tiny space of the moral high ground, but I'll just have to do it for the common good. It may he unpleasant being pressed up against all sorts of people one would rather not be pressed up against but virtue is never easy

for a woman like me. There are days, I must admit, when I look down from my plinth and yearn to return to earth, to be one of the great mass of ordinary mortals who drift around in the quagmire of moral relativism quite unaware of what they are doing. I have to say some of them look well enough on it, some of them even seem capable of making moral judgements all by themselves: clearly they do not realise that the end is nigh, that civilisation is falling apart. Personally, I hlame the teachers, the social workers, the parents, the bishops, the Royal Family, the underclass, the middle class, the politicians, young people, people who were young in the Sixties, people over 60, televi-sion, drugs, cars, computers, feminism and anyone else who knows me.

In short, once you create a moral vacuum then every anxiety can be sucked into it. But what good does this do? Presumably those who want to rein-state morality count themselves as moral beings. They just pre-sume other people are not. No one in the great moral crusade is saying: "I haven't a clue about right or wrong. No idea, mate." Are they? Nor will anyone admit that often we know full well the difference between right and wrong but choose to do wrong and we cannot merely be "edu-cated" out of such choices.

If the nation, via the babblings of Blair Inc. is to be remoralised intravenously, which parts of the nation are we talking about exactly? And why now? Sure, we can list the tragedies that have fuelled this debate, from James Bulger to Dunhlane to the murder of Philip Lawrence, but that isn't enough to explain this

Morality, of course, reaches the parts that conventional polities fails to refresh. The province of morality is now located firmly in extraparliamentary politics whether we are talking about the environment or the ethics of ani-mal rights. For all the many thousands of words written on the subject in the past couple of weeks, it is actually fairly uncontroversial to suggest that we should lead better lives, be more concerned for our fellow human beings, encourage a sense of civic pride and community spirit. The question is not even about how practically we might achieve this. Polly Toynbee, writing in this



I blame teachers, parents, bishops, Royals, the underclass, the middle class, politicians ... and all who know me'

paper, provided a good list of American election is showing, merly heen the public sphere: so vhere we might start.

Yet this latest moral panic points to some deeper changes in society. First, the middle classes are now suffering what were traditionally working-class insecurities. The certainties about johs, homes, even spouses for life are no more; hut they need something to mark their distance from the rahid underclass.

Second, and this is now a common observation, politicians have less and less actual power to effect change in a global economy and can only fiddle at the edges. This means they need to come up with a hig idea that doesn't cost anything. As the

that health, education and, yes, ideas altogether except the one morality became reduced to a that a downsized government matter of individual choice won't even bother making rather than collective need. promises it can't keep. The result is that a terrific burden is put on civil society to pick up the

Into this morass there comes a new sense of collectivism, epitomised by Tony Blair, who is aware that much of the popula-tion remains personally liberal immoral it's the idea that mere talk will give them that chance. pieces that neither the leftist state nor conventional party politics will. No wonder, then that we are questioning what it takes to make society more civil. Third, we are still living in the aftermath of Thatcherism.

but fiscally conservative. His collectivist instincts cannot be articulated in any way materially - this smacks too much of socialism so they inhablt the vaguer (and cheaper) realm of spirituality.

I am not saying the solutions to all moral problems are purely economic, but to offer waffle about values to teachers whose classroom roofs are falling in is worse than useless. We care or we don't, and we show how much we care by how much we are prepared to pay for provision, not just for our own chil-dren hut for other people's too. While we may not seek to redis-tribute wealth, we still want to distribute our version of morality to the moral have-nots.

Those who feel that this rab-hle are a dreadfully low-life hunch of moral relativists world as I do. Most children seem to me naturally moral, most people try to lead good lives. But then if you want a return to moral absolutes and aw-and-order policies that are effective, perhaps you live in a town twinned with Kabul. There is nothing more fright-ening than moral fundamentalism of whatever persuasion. We live in a secular and liberal society in which women's lives have changed enormously in the past 50 years. Family life has changed, too. If we want to draw up a few redefinitions that's fine. hut who are they for? And what should they be?

Nothing I have heard over the past week or so on family life has defined a family quite so clearly to me as the following: "The family group whatever its size must stay together throughout the journey. The members of the family group need not be related." This bit of philosophy comes not from those agonising about other people's families and their appalling lack of morals hut from a British Rail leaflet explaining who is entitled to use a Family Railcard. I'd vote for this definition.

Mind you. I'd vote for anyone whose election pledge was to han the word "moral" from their pronouncements. The word has already been emptied of all meaning but those intent on claiming the moral high-ground have failed to notice, so husy are they wittering on to each other about how bad other people are. Down in the low lands, the mess of everyday life may get stuck on your shoes and some souls may be demoralised they are after but the chance to lead a decent life. If anything is

Who wants to be a family doctor?

A couple of weeks ago. Hed a dis-cussion group of tirst-year Oxford medical students who had just completed a two-week attachment to GP surgeries. In previous years, the students had come back full of enthusiasm after their first contacts. with patients in the community. They were impressed with the quality of medicine that the GPs were practising, the consultation skills needed and the involvement of so many skilled people who make up the primary care teams.

This year, there was a difference. Certainly the students were as intelligent and articulate as ever, but my group spent the first 45 minutes discussing the linances and organisation of general practice. They had to be positively dragged into talking about patients or medicine.

Is this because we have been selecting the wrong people to do medicine? Well, that is possible, but I don't think so. Students still don't go into medicine to be entrepreneurs or managers. I am afraid they are reflecting what is occupying the minds of most

My generation, in our fifties, have paid left out mortgages and are wondering when we can afford to retire The younget GPs are concerned with maximising their profits. None of us has any incentive to put patient care first. We have endless government initistives for "health promotion" and new targets to meet, but these are mostly on the periphery of good patient care, and are positively detrimental to spending quality time with our patients on the cote of general practice day-to-day care.

My generation are wondering when we can afford to retire. The younger GPs are concerned with maximising their profits. None of us has any incentive to put

patient care first' -Jonathan Ferrier, Oxford doctor

Does this matter? The answer is emphatically res. In the 1980s, general practice was the preferred branch of medicine for many of the hrightest, most able and enthusiastic young doctors. Since the Kenneth Clarke reforms in 1990, there has been a dramatie reversal of the situation, so that now many GP training places remain

In Oxford, usually seen as an

have about 90 applicants for six trainmg places on its three-year scheme for new GPs. This year, it had only eight applicants. After interviews, four people were appointed. Other training places are filled by graduates from other European countries, who take advantage of our excellent training schemes but who then go back to their own countries to practise. The picture is the same around Britain.

With older GPs working part-time or taking early retirement, and an inadequate number of doctors entering general practice, the shortage is becoming acute. Some inner-city prac-tices cannot fill their vacancies, and have to resort to reducing their lists, while we in the more fortunate provinces may have posts unfilled for many months.

So what happens if there are not enough GPs? You only have to look at the dental service to see the answer. People will be unable to get an NHS doctor, and will have to turn to seeing private GPs (at £30 an appointment). Doctors will suddenly become a lot wealthier: the government of the day will no longer have to pay for health out of taxes (at about £200 a head), and the public will need to take out private insurance to include general practice care at about £1,000 a

The present government has suddenly woken up to the situation and produced a White Paper suggesting in very broad terms a few alternatives. Some work can be taken over by nurses and other professions. Some appealing and attractive place to live GPs may be encouraged to work as and work. 20 per cent of training salaried doctors without the paper-

work required of partners or the longterm commitment to patients and their families.

These suggestions at least show a hit of welcome flexibility, but they are really only tinkering with the problem. and nobody is addressing the under-lying collapse of morale among GPs. The fact is that significant numbers of doctors no longer wish to practise as GPs, even though the quality of medicine being practised is enormously higher than 20 years ago.

There are many factors behind this, but the overwhelming one is that the stress of the job has increased hugely, while the rewards have diminished. A number of the stresses are due directly or indirectly to government policy, such as the introduction of health promotion requirements (which, incidentally, have been totally changed three times in six years). These take large amounts of time for both doctors and staff in administering the ever more complex systems, and then more time in completing the returns to the family health authorities so that we get

What is more irritating is that much of this work has been of little relevance to patient care, and is even undermined by other government policies. For instance, it may be of interest to know that 30 per cent of our patients smoke, but it does not actually stop anyone from doing so, while the Gov-ernment's refusal to ban cigarette advertising actively encourages smok-

ing among the young.
Fund-holding has brought significant benefits to some patients, but it has widened the gap between the haves and the have-nots, favoured big the small, friendly ones and created a bureaucracy out of all proportion to the benefits.

which changed the way we think

about the relationship between

the individual and society, the

private and the public. She

politicised private aspiration

and privatised what had for-

The public has also become more demanding in recent years, which may be no bad thing, but the media have certainly aggravated public worries by sensationalising certain medical news items. Whatever the causes, extra resources are needed to cope with that

GP income has fallen in real terms over the past three years, but apart from that, the work required for the same income has been increased. This has been achieved by the nifty manoeuvre of removing a portion of our income and then giving it back to us provided we reach set targets for cervical smears, immunisations, health promotion and postgraduate

Most of these are worthy causes, but if more work is required from people who are already working long hours. then it should be accompanied by the extra funds to employ the extra staff necessary,

Although paid considerably less than doctors in most other European countries. British GPs have always been among the better-paid in our own society, and none of us went into medicine for the money. Job satisfaction rather than ever-increasing stress is what is required to avert a rapidly developing crisis.

The author has been a GP in Oxfordshire for more than 20 years, a GP trainer, course organiser of the Oxford GP training scheme, and a member of the local medical committee.



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Watchdog bars Fidelity arm from new business

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

Fidelity Brokerage Services. the UK private client stock broking arm of the giant US fund management group, has been barred by the Securities and Futures Authority, its regulator, from taking on any new husiness for the next three

FBS will also pay compensa-tion if any of its 30,000 UK clients have suffered losses as a result of five months of glitches caused by its new computer system. The SFA has given FBS until the end of January to correct its problems and will take "further steps" at that time if necessary. FBS will have to provide monthly progress

reports to regulator.
The highly unusual move is further had news for the City which has been stunned in recent months by a series of scandals at highly reputable firms such as Morgan Grenfell Asset Management and Jardine

Fleming. The SFA said: "FBS has entered into undertakings with the SFA not to take on new direct customers or introduce new husiness services until SFA is satisfied with its customer service performance.

The SFA will closely monitor the arrangements announced by the firm to ensure that customers who have suffered as a direct consequence of the operational problems are adequately compensated, the regulator added.
Phil West, marketing man-

ager at FBS, said that 850 of its clients had complained about their accounts. But he conceded that, at times, all of the firm's clients would have been affected by the problems, "Where errors have been made we will pay compensation," he said.

Errors include delays with share dividend payments into

accounts and and the quarterly payment of income into self-

tect PEP accounts. "In the early months there were problems with the timeliness of mailing statements to was some information on those statements which was not correct." Mr West said. He estimated the total compensation bill would be tess than £1,000

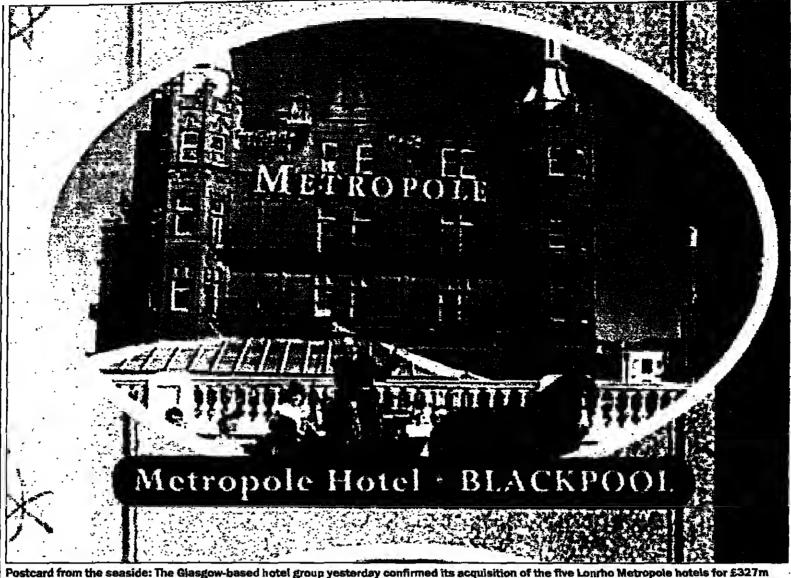
Most compensation will in-volve rectifying lost interest or reimbursing hank charges incurred from accounts going overdrawn as a result of delayed

payments, although payments could cover inconvenience caused. "We recognise that where clients have been severely inconvenienced and have experienced problems over a long time we would make a gesture of goodwill," Mr West said. "We wouldn't expect any client to suffer a loss as a result of this."

He calculated that most compensation payments would he tens of pounds with a few running into the hundreds. Compensation will take the form of waiving fee income or one-off cash payments.

According to letters to Investors Chronicle, the trade

magazine, FBS lost £11,300 for one of its client in Leicestershire as a result of three separate cr-rors. Another complaint, dating back to May, was still not resolved at the start of October. The embarrassing problems had already forced FBS to stop advertising for new business in August. The computer system was introduced in April and supplied by Synergo, a computer vendor, Mr West declined to say what, if any, action would be taken against Synergo but said the head of information tech-



Postcard from the seaside: The Glasgow-based hotel group yesterday confirmed its acquisition of the five Lourho Metropole hotels for £327m

Stakis steps up City fees battle

Peter Rodgers and Tom Stevenson

Schroders yesterday stepped up a City battle to fend off a monopolies inquiry into the fees charged for raising capital for British industry, with the first rights issue to include an auction of underwriting commitments.

The auction of up to one-third of the sub-underwriting saved £400,000 in costs for the Glasgow-based hotel group Stakis, which earlier in the day confirmed the acquisition of Lonrho's five Metropole hotels for £327m. part-funded by a £222m nology at FBS had been given new responsibilities and that a rights issue. Stakis also forecast replacement was being flown in profits for the year to September of not less than £30.6m. Comment, page 25 The significance of Schroders'

move, as adviser to Stakis, is that the Office of Fair Trading is nearing completion of an investigation of the City's fixed underwriting commissions, which could lead to an inquiry by the Monopolies and Merg-

The OFT investigation was prompted by concerns that merchant banks and investment institutions always charge the same fixed rates for rights issues by companies, regardless of the size or type of issue. This has led to widespread ac-cusations that an unofficial car-

tel is in operation, raising the cost of capital to British indus-

system hope to produce evidence 28.2 per cent, slightly less than Independent two weeks ago, of new flexibility in commissions and fees, to back the maintenance of the status quo. Initial reaction was that the

savings for Stakis, while less

than 10 per cent, were good considering the size of the issue and the market's attitude to hotels. Recently, the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds wrote to their members advising them that investment banks were considering an anction system, and suggesting

sented to them. The auction was to include up to 33 per cent of the sub-un-By introducing an auction de-fenders of the City underwriting Schroders said afterwards that

they back the idea if it were pre-

the ceiling was awarded. As a result, Stakis would pay commissions of £4.2m, which is £400,000 - or 8.4 per cent - less than it would have been under the fixed commission system. This included a pro rata reduction in Schroders' own fees to

match the cut by the institutions. The bids for the auction portion of the sub-underwriting sought a commission of just over 1 per cent compared with the 1.5 per cent fixed fee for a six-week underwriting period which applied to the rest.
The hotel deal was welcomed

by analysts who saw scope for material improvements in the chain's profits under new own-

the deal, which the company says will be earnings enhancing from the first year of acquisition. marks a hig leap for the hotels, casinos and leisure clubs group. The four-for-seven rights issue at 82p, which will raise £222m towards the cost of the deal, compares with a market value of just under £500m currently.
David Michels, chief executive
of, Stakis, said; "While both
groups will learn from each

other, the operational and mar-keting skills Stakis has developed under its cutrent management are expected to impact very positively on the performance and profitability of all five

goes to MMC Magnus Grimond Cowie, the North-east of England bus group and car dealer, saw its shares dive 7 per cent yes-terday in reaction to a surprise announcement that its £282m ac-

Bla

Cowie

bus deal

quisition of British Bus had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, corporate and consumer affairs minister, said the acquisition, which at a stroke turned Cowie into the UK's third-largest bus operator, raised competition concerns about bus services in Surrey and Kent and south London. The group has a leading market share in the capital. On the ad-vice of the Office of Fair Trading, Mr Taylor has referred the issue to the MMC, with a hrief to report back by 6 February.

This is not the first controversy to hit British Bus, whose former chairman, Dawson Williams, has been charged with corruption offences after a Serious Fraud Office investi-gation. But Cowie and analysts played down the significance of the reference yesterday and, after touching 338p, the shares regained some of their losses to end 6p down at 359p.

ther count

Although Cowie said at the time of the deal that a referral was "unlikely", company spokes-man Robert Blower said they re-mained confident the MMC would not force the reversal of the whole acquisition. "That would be totally unnecessary and is not on the cards. The OF are not thinking that way at all." Mr Blower believed that the problems lay with Kentish Bus and London & Country, two British Bus subsidiaries which operate services into London. With Cowie's existing opera-tions, this would give the com-bined group a 26 per cent market share in the capital, 1 percentage point more than the maximum normally allowed

by competition authorities. Mr Blower said rationalisation in Kentish Bus had already reduced the share to 25.4 per cent and there remained plenty of scope to reduce further by swapping or cutting routes. In all, the business at issue relat-ed to 1 or 2 per ceot of the £280m turnover of British Bus.

"We maintain that our services don't operate against the public interest, that there isn't a competition issue and when vou look at 25.4 per cent, it is only a marginal issue and there is plenty of scope to rationalise our London operation."

One analyst said if there bad been a major problem, the Government would have referred the acquisition before it was completed in August.

However, another said the news had come as "a hit of a blow". The company had neglected its new car sales side this year and this could put a question mark over the strategy of

Wace shares crash on third profits warning

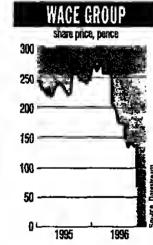
Nigel Cope

The catalogue of disaster at Wace, the printing company, continued yesterday when it issued its third profits warning of the year, together with a wholesale restructuring and an additional £9m of exceptional charges. The company will now record an estimated £2m loss for the pear after what amounts to a kitchen sinking" of the accounts. Wace shares crashed almost

50 per cent to 69.5p on the an-nouncement. They have dropped from 279p since Wace blamed the latest set-

back on poorer than expected sales in September and October. This followed a warning at the group's annual meeting in May and again in the half-year results aunouncement in August that consistent sides had failed to materialise. "We have high-lighted the problems as soon as they have come to light but the performance in the last three months has been disappointing," said Wace finance director Stephen Puckett.

In August Wace had reported a 60 per slump in half-year profits to £4.2m but chief executive Trevor Grice made a



Wace said yesterday that the difficult trading conditions had prompted a wide-ranging review of the business. The results will be several closures and disposals as the group tries to move away from highly competitive commodity businesses. Wace has already closed its Glasgow site with the loss of 58

ohs. The publications imaging division, which has under-performed for some time, is to be sold though it is expected to fetch only a nominal sum. The two sites in Paris will be merged into a single factory. In

Source: FT Information

the US, three businesses in Grand Rapids, Memphis and New York will be sold. All Wace's US operations will now be concentrated in Chicago. with five existing sites streamlined into just one.
The total number of jobs lost

will be around 90. The £9m restructuring charge is in addition to the £4m charged during the The company said it intend-

ed to focus on digital imaging, in what it described as the growth areas of electronic pubshing and on-line digital media. Wace was one of the glamour stocks of the 1980s when it was run by youthful chief executive John Clegg. Trevor Grice took over in 1992 and won some

ducing debts. However, its recent record has been one of continual disappointment. The company said yesterday that it had spoken to some of its institutional investors who were "not

praise for cutting costs and re-

particularly happy".

There were queries earlier this year about the company's accounts, though there was no suggestion of impropriety. It is understood the accounts have since been given the all-clear by the Financial Reporting Review

says no to two-tier boards

Michael Harrison

Business leaders yesterday launched an attack on Labour's plan to give employees and customers a say in the running of companies by allowing the introduction of Continental-style two-tier boards.

A report by the Confedera-tion of British Industry says that allowing stakeholders to be represented on company boards would raise conflicts of interest. hlur lines of responsibility and

create barriers between shareholders and management. The CBI also warned that

creating a two-tier structure whereby a supervisory board of directors monitors the performance of the executive management board - would not deliver greater protection for investors while robbing companies of the cohesion that the British system of unitary boards produces. Martin Broughton, chief ex-

ecutive of BAT Industries and chairman of the CBI's compa-

nies committee, said: "In the UK the unitary board is still the best way to make sure that directors are held accountable for the performance of their company. The unitary board encourages high standards of direction and oversight of the company by combining the outside experience and independence of nonexecutive directors with the operating knowledge of the ex-

ecutive directors. Directors, he added, had to take into account the interests

well as shareholders. But if there were to be two-tier boards with wider stakeholder representation, how would truly representative individuals be found, who would select them and how could they be trusted not to pursue their own agendas at the expense of the company's interest? The report is being sent to the Hampel Committee on corporate

of customers, employees, sup-pliers and local communities as

governance, set up to review the workings of the Cadbury code. tion mark over the strategy of moving into buses, she said.

central library is one of the im-British export: portant keys to faster progress". However, Ian Edwards, a part-Ochina grow

Software snags hold up pension redress to wait many more months, or tive said yesterday the software The library system was heav-

A central information library. touted by the Securities and Investments Board as a key part of the mechanism for giving redress to pension transfer victims, is barely working more than nine months after its launch.

Bacon & Woodrow, the firm responsible for setting up the lihrary, with strong S1B backing, admitted yesterday that crucial software needed to speed up the reviews was not ready.

The delays mean hundreds of thousands of priority cases -deemed so because the policyholders have died, are close to retirement or were given particularly bad advice - will have

even another year, until redress is offered

Details of the new log-jam came as the SIB said yesterday that it was to launch yet another initiative aimed at overcoming the problem. The latest plan is be-lieved to involve streamlining the information asked for by companies in a bid to improve response rates from policyholders.

The SIB's move is likely to meet with some scepticism from observers, who will point to its failure to deal with the Prudential, a company it regulates directly. Prudential has more than 40,000 priority cases. It has so far offered redress to just 10 of them. A senior life company execuproblems in large measure extained the reluctance of Colette Bowe chief enecutive at the Personal Investment Authority, to set new deadlines for compensating victims of the scandal. In a PIA document obtained

by The Independent, Ms Bowe says: "Fresh targets might simply provoke cynicism and down-right disbelief." A regulatory source said: "I

feel sorry for [the PIA] really. They know the software is not there and won't be for a long while. But they can't admit it, because that would mean admitting people won't get redress for a long while yet, which is not the message they want to get out."

A pensions central library was to enable a database of occupational pension schemes to be built up. Scheme administrators would only have to provide information to one source, accessed in turn by any insurer

ily promoted by Andrew Large,

the SIB's chairman, in January, when he admitted that barely a

handful of people who were

mis-sold a pension had been

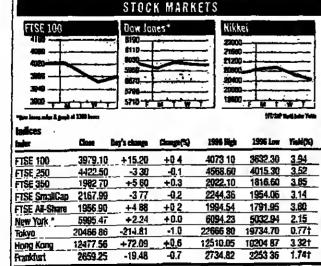
paying a fee.

Andrew Winckler, SIB chief recutive, told delegates at the National Association of Pension Funds conference in May that the City regulator "was clear that widespread use of a

ner at Bacon & Woodrow, said yesterday that four separate calculating systems were needed to meet the software requirements of the companies wanting to make use of the library. So far one is operational, another is in the "final" stages of

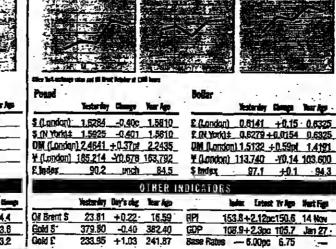
development, a third is now with the software supplier, while work on the fourth has not started. Of the many dozens of companies who might use the library, some 20 are currently doing so, Mr Edwards said. "We are dependent on the software houses.

It is taking far longer than initially





INTEREST RATES



CURRENCIES

Warburg forced to lift prices on Kepit sale

SBC Warburg has been forced to raise prices realised on the sale of a £300m portfolio of shares after a complaint from Merrill Lynch on behalf of its client, the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust,

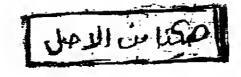
The shares were sold as part of the liquidation of Kepit, an investment trust specialising in European stocks. Warburg chose the market turmoil that surrounded Wednesday's surprise increase in interest rates to execute the trade. Later in the day prices rose back to more advantageous levels. Merrill Lynch, which is ad-

vising Kepit, accused Warburg of executing the trade at poor prices. The row was later defused after Warburg offered to

use closing prices for the stocks. One source said: "It's no big deal. This sort of thing happens." the whole time." But another said it was indicative of the way market-makers manipulated prices to their own advantage. This was a programme trade, a source close to the transaction said. "The timing had been pre-set and it was un fortunate that it occurred when

prices were weak as a result of

the interest rate decision."



Cowie us deal goes to MMC

nus Grimond

ic, the North-east of Engbus group and car dealer, is shares dive 7 per cent yesw in reaction to a surprise uncernent that its £282m action of British Bus had referred to the Monopond Mergers Commission. hn Taylor, corporate and umer affairs minister, said acquisition, which at a e turned Cowie into the third-largest bus operator. d competition concerns t bus services in Surrey and and south London. The p has a leading market a in the capital. On the ad-of the Office of Fair Trad-Mr Taylor has referred the to the MMC, with a brief port back by 6 February. s is not the first controto hit British Bus, whose ier chairman. Dawson iams, has been charged corruption offences after tions Fraud Office investiin. But Cowie and analysis ed down the significance of elerence vesterday and, afsuching 338p, the shares reed some of their losses to op down at 359p. Bliough Cowie said at the

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EEE INDEPENDENT • FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 1996

COMMENT

If the tax were based on total shareholder return, combining dividends paid with the share price

increase since privatisation, then

BT's windfall tax liability is miraculously blown away, together

with that of

British Gas'

Nevertheless, by now we might at least have expected to know which companies would be caught by it, how it would be struetured, at what level it would apply and how much it would raise. We know the answers to none of these. And the reason is that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, disagree. The steady leaks from the Brown and Blair camps illustrate this.

is also causing some serious friction at the top of the Labour party.

pledges so far made by Labour - the other being the commitment to abolish VAT on do-

mestic fuel - it is remarkable how little is

In part that is deliberate. Labour does not

want to raise its profile on tax, not even exe

levied on a bunch as despised as the priva-

tised utilities. At the end of the day, taxes,

are taxes and no party seeking political pow-er likes to be associated with imposing new

known about the wretched thing.

Mr Brown, who has let it be known that the tax might raise as much as £10bn, would clearly like to cast the net as wide as possible to fund the spending commitments of

Mr Blair would like to draw the line much | no longer constitute a monopoly?

Blair and Brown fall out over windfall gains The prospect of a windfall tax may be sending shaders through the boardrooms of the privatised ntilities. But the closer we get lar, he would like to draw the line so as to to the day when it could become a reality, exclude BT from the scope of the tax since the more apparent it is that the dreaded levy this the company that will help deliver another of sabour's manifesto pledges - the

calling up of every school in the land to the information superhighway. Given that it is one of only two clear tax On most extrema, such as a tax based on market capitalisation or the "excess" profession or the such as a tax based on market capital stressed as a tax based on market capital stressed. BT would be

waigled the worst.

The if the test were based on total share-bolder ressen, combining dividends paid with the heart recent combining alvocates paid with the heart race increase since privatisation, then BT swindfall tax liability is miraculously like a sure, together with that of British Gas. This is due to their below everage stock marhet performance, for which the two compa-nes cast thank their regulators.

Conveniely, the privatised regional elec-traction and water companies would be hit most severely. There is no rhyme or reason to this and plenty of evidence that it is ar-bitrary and unfair.

In the case of electricity, for instance, why should those overseas predators who have receively acquired RECs pay the tax on windfall gains that have already been distributed to their original shareholders? Why, for that matter, should the two generators, National Power and PowerGen, pay a windfall levy when neither are price regulated utilities and

This, sadly, misses the point. BT and British Gas still account for a large chunk of the 5 million voters who bought into the privatisation programme. If, through sleight of hand, Mr Blair can exempt them from a windfall tax while still realising a windfall gain. what should he care?

Stakis may not save underwriters from MMC

hough routine in other respects, yesterday's Stakis rights issue was ground-breaking because it chipped away at the fixed underwriting commissions which have been a feature of the City for as long as anyone

The auctioning of sub-underwriting comissions introduced by Schroders might seem just a minor technical change. But behind it seethes an argument in the City about the vay companies raise capital.

On the one hand are the traditional mer-

chant banks such as Schroders and the hig investing institutions, which are firm believers in fixed underwriting commissions and in pre-emption rights, which give existing shareholders first call on any new issue.

Ranged against them are investment banks such as Morgan Stanley and SBC War-burg, which would much rather see the City adopt New York methods, where securities houses buy up whole share issues and flog

is mighty suspicious that there is a cartel in | ture of compliance", comes unother howler operation, and is putting the finishing touches to an investigation and may well recommend a monopolies inquiry.

The critics' principal weapon has been the way fees for underwriting, and especially sub-underwriting by the institutions, have been unchanged for decades. Institutions pick up 1.25 per cent of the value of an issue, and more if the underwriting period is lengthy. By putting some of Stakis's underwriting up for auction. Schroders hopes to demonstrate that there is enough flexibility in the old system to deflect pressure to tinker with it.

With a saving of less than 10 per cent on the old fixed fees, the saving was not dra-matic. But Stakis was not the essiest of rights issues to experiment on, since it was quite large and in a sector to which investors are now a hij lukewarm. It at least demonstrates that there is some fat to be trimmed from the fixed commission system. But given that the big integrated investment banks have no interest in helping preserve the status quo by following suit, this exercise may not be enough to stave off an official investigation.

Rogue computers. That makes a change

Tard on the heels of the Bank of Eng-land's warning in its excellent new Fi-nancial Stability Review of the need for indeed.

The sub-plot, of course, is that the OFT: "effective management controls and a cul-- this time from the private client stockbroking arm of the giant US fund management group Fidelity.

Admittedly this is not quite in the scale of another Morgan Grenfell, or even the less calamitous misdemeanours of Jardine Fleming. Nor are we dealing here with the deliberate antics of a rogue trader. Rather it is the entirely undeliberate cock-ups of a rogue computer. The effect on public confidence is not much better all the same. It is that you cannot trust these people in the

City with your money. Presumably this is what Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England, means when he talks about "reputational risk", for it was surely he who wrote the piece that appears under his wife's name, Prudence, in the Bank's review.

"The market standing and good name of an entire financial group can be put at risk by the activities of two part," he writes, and doesn't Fidelity know it. The business where the computer problems occurred is only a tiny part of this organisation, but there will be a certain loss of reputation throughout. However, there is another way of looking

at this, in a large organisation, the poten-tial loss of reputation is usually significant enough to ensure that adequate compensition is provided. In the hands of the aggrieved, reputational risk is a mighty weapon

UK 'may be forced to pay other countries' pensions'

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

A commons select committee yesterday gave new ammunition to the Eurosceptics when it warned that, if Britain joined a single currency, taxpayers could be called on to help finance the pensions of other EU members.

The commons social services accommittee said the UK's national debt was £5,000 a head, which rose to £9,000 if the cost -of meeting unfunded government pension commitments was taken into account. Howfar larger unfunded pension *commitments.

took on also our share of the to- gle corrency that British taxpaytal unfunded pension liabilities of the EU, that figure would increase to £30,000 of debt.for every man, woman and child in the country.

the European Commission endorsed a one-off advance payment by France Telecom to help the Prench government cut its 1997 budget gap so it can qualify for the EU single currency. It has been criticised as an accounting dodge to allow

France into monetary union. The commons committee's claims about UK taxpayers bearing other countries' pension costs were immediately denied by the European Commission. The committee report said: "As the UK's outstanding pub-lic pension liabilities are said-

stantially below those of other EU members, there would be a The committee said: "If we risk that if the UK joined a siners could be called upon to help finance the pay as you go oblig-ations of other EU members. It added that the alternative

was to "suffer the consequences EU.":

of being tied to interest rates on the single currency that were forced up by the market pressures of financing certain countries' inherited pension commitments".

Brussels maists there was no mechanism to make EMU members subsidise each others' budget deficits, whether or not eaused by pension payments. However, the committee said countries inside EMU might borrow extra to pay their pen-sion bills, raising interest rates and damaging UK employment

The committee said: "In this way taxpayers in the UK, whose pensions derive largely from funded occupational pension schemes, could find themselves pension liabilities of other member states - even with no element of fiscal dision in the

In its report on pension lia-bilities, the commons committee cited OECD figures that gave the net present value of public pension schemes in the UK as 19 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with 98 per cent for France, 113 per cent for Italy and 139 per cent for Germany. A similar study by the International Monetary Fund (see chart) also showed Britain to be in a much more favourable position, with far

lower unfunded state pension

commitments to meet.

The committee said the extent of unfunded pension liabilities in some European countries cast serious doubt on the long-term sustainability of their finances. When pension account, they gave a "wholly different picture of the relative financial strengths of our EU partners".

UNFUNDED NET PRESENT VALUE OF PUBLIC PENSION LIABILITIES

The remedy, said the committee, was to take full account of unfunded pension liabilities in the criteria for EMU entry set by the Maastricht Treaty. The liabilities should be used to help decide which countries are eligible to join.

It also suggested a series of steps to provide new data on unfunded pension liabilities, including an expert European working group to provide national statistics, together with annual statements for each country showing how the liabilities increased.

However, an appendix to the committee report shows the Commission had already published a report rejecting pressure to include pension liabilines in the Maastricht criteria.

Meanwhile, there were concerns that commission approval of the payment by the stateowned French telecoms company was setting a had precedent for other countries trying to qualify for EMU. The France Telecom pay-

ment will shift FF37.5bn from its pension fund to the treasury, 0.5 per cent of gross domestic product. It is an advance payment of France Telecom's future contribution to the pension plan of its employees. Klaus-Dieter Kuehbacher, a

German Bundesbank council member, said it "encourages those who appear not to meet the [single currency] criteria to take similar measures". The British government is unhappy with the decision. The head of the Commission's statistics office, Eurostat, eleared the plan despite protests by German. British and Dutch experts.

EMU 'could mean 2p off income tax'

The case for entering EMU was backed yesterday by a study by IBCA, the credit rating agency, which said it could pay for 2p off the basic rate of income tax. Christopher Huhne, manag-

ing director of sovereign ratings at IBCA, said most EU countries would make substantial savings in the interest payments on their national debt as a result of the likely fall in bond yields for EMU participants. Britain could eventually ben-

efit by the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of GDP - the equivalent of 2p off tax - and the gains would be particularly marked for Spain, Portugal and Italy, ranging from 2 per cent to nearly 6 per cent of GDP.

Mr Huhne believed that the independent European System of Central Banks would reduce the likelihood of macro-eennomic policy instability, and create a low inflation and low interest rate environment for

Lloyd's launches regulatory review

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Lloyd's of London yesterday amounced a wide-ranging review of the insurance market's regulation, in the aftermath of the £3.2bn rescue plan approved in September. The review will be led by Sir

Alan Hardcastle, chairman of the Lloyd's regulatory board, but it includes John Kennedy, a director of the Securides and Investments Board, and other Sir Alan said the review

would recommend how regulation would develop in the fu-ture and added: "It is imperative to ensure that the sharp lessons of the past have Lloyd's has recently made



have led to independence

elear that it is prepared to consider removal of the regulatory function from the market, though David Rowland, chairman, has also said that recent changes have made the internal regulatory department into a itself dealing with a new Labour much more independent body than in the past.

The terms of reference of the In 1995, following a Com-

than Lloyd's should undertake or supervise any regulatory ac-The role of the council, the

existing regulatory board and the relationship with the mar-ket board would be among the issues examined. Sir Alan said the direct in-

volvement in the review of the SIB and people involved in providing capital to Lloyd's would ensure a high degree of independence. He plans to report to the

council of Lloyd's by mid-1997, but that is likely to be after an

review say 1 will consider mons Treasury Committee re-whother organisations other port, the Government said it port, the Government said it would undertake a long-term review of the statutory framework for Lloyd's regulations.

The start of this review was delayed for two years until next summer to allow the future shape of the market to clarify. With £8bn of losses and a vast reconstruction programme just completed, the market is in a state of flux.

Other members of the review team include Jonathan Agnew, a corporate member of the council of Lloyd's, and Rodney Galpin, a former executive director of the Bank of England.

A CABLE & WIRTLESS COMPANY

COMPETITION IS GREAT FOR BUSINESS.

SO COME ON, BT, BE A BIT MORE COMPETITIVE

British exports to China grow

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The Government insured British exports worth more than £4bn last year, an increase of a third on 1994, according to figures released yesterday by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

They show huge increases in exports guaranteed by the ECGD to China and Indonesia, emphasising the attraction UK firms have for doing business with overseas regimes with questionable human rights records. Indonesia was the second

most popular market, with guarantees worth £545m in the year to last April, compared with £220m the previous year. Two thirds of these were to back a £360m contract by British Aerospace to supply Hawk training jets to the Indonesian authorities. BAe has faced longrunning protests from antiarms trade campaigners against the deal, which is for 24 aircraft. Protesiers have claimed the Hawk can easily be transformed

intn an attack plane. In total, backing for defencerelated exports increased from £543m to £841m. Half went to the Far East, while 27 per cent were accounted for by Middle

Eastern countries, in particular Saudi Arabia. Civil exports, exchiding aerospace, surged from £1.33bn ro £2.44bn.

China was the largest export market for the second year running, with ECGD business rising from £237.5m to £882.5m. A £536m guarantee backed an order for GEC Alsthom to supply two huge steam turbine power station generators, the biggest single deal of the year.

GEC Alsthom was also responsible for the second largest deal guaranteed, involving a coal-fired power station in the The department also painted Philippines.

a brighter picture for exporters doing business with the former Soviet Union. The Government has provided £490m worth of guarantees for exports to Russia because exports could not be backed on commercial terms. Around £400m of this credit facility has been used up and much of the rest is accounted for by contracts in the pipeline. The DTI is soon to announce

whether further credits will be made available. Altogether the department contributed £246m to Treasury coffers, a marked improvement

Accountants rush to limit liability

More than balf of professional partnerships, milinly lawyers and accountants, are considering ways of linesing their liability and a similar proportion believe they may become limited lia-

bility partnerships, according to a survey published by accountants Smith & Williamson.

The findings come as Jersey finalises legislation, drafted with the aid of leading accountants. tants Price Waterhouse and Erest & Young to enable large firms to provide their parmers with better protection against lawsults by tellstering on the is-

Other offshore financial cen-tres, such as Guerriscy and the Isle of Man, are understood to be looking at similar moves.

The problem of increasingly large negligerice daims has mainly been associated with accountancy firms, which have been hit by investors damaged by the spate of corporate col-lapses of the early 1990s.

But the survey by Smith & Wilhamson, whose staff wrote herships are unable to ignore. the recently published Profes- It also indicates that in the signal Partnership Handbook, next 12 months the legal land-finds that solicitors are in- scape will continue to change in its finances despite an overall circusingly worded by the issue; through further mergers and ac-deficit in its accounts of £2.3bn. with 38 per cent considering quisitions."

ways of limiting hability. Some 48 per cent of them thought the limited liability partnership route was possible, while 29 per cent felt the same about incorporation - the approach already adopted by accountants KPMG's audit arm.

The same survey, conducted in September, shows that 80 per cent of solicitors' firms, which made up 60 per cent of the survey sample, would consider a merger, while 75 per cent have either made an approach to or been approached by another firm to discuss a merger or the acquisition of a team.

About 62 per cent of law partnerships believe that mergers and acquisitions will increase over the next 12 months. While 16 per cent are actively considering a merger, 34 per cent are actively looking at ac-

quiring a team. Simon Mabey, chairman of Smith & Williamson's professional partnership group, said: This year's survey provides evidence that limited liability is an issue that professional part-

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Pilkington remains under the cosh

Roger Leverton has done a splendid job in the four years he has been at the helm of Pilkington. He has focused the company on what it does best, tried to add some value to its commodity glass businesses and shaken up the previously sleepy family culture. He has been rewarded with a trading background to make the strongest manager weep.

Profits of £75m in the first six months to September were pretty much in line with expectations. Unfortunately, those expectations bave been progressively massaged down-wards in recent months.

It was only a few months ago that the consensus forecast for the full year was reined in from over £250m to under £220m. Now anyone looking for more than £200m is being taken to one side and steered lower.

Those downward revisions matter for a company like Pilkington because its shares tend to be valued on the basis of peak expected earnings. If the timing of those top-of-the-cycle earnings is shifted outwards or the quantum reduced the calculations used to justify the current price can be quickly ren-dered worthless.

No surprise then that Pilkington's shares have suffered so much from the growing realisation that the building markets of Europe remain severely un-der the cosh. At yesterday's close of 171p, the shares have fallen by a fifth since March and underperformed the

rest of the market by a quarter.
In a commodity market like float glass, reduced demand and overcapacity can have a dramatic impact on price and a decline in overall volumes in Europe of 3 per cent was reflected in falls in price of up to 25 per cent in Germany, the worst-hit market. The good news is that the downturn would appear to have bottomed and prices are back to where they were six months ago, even if that still represents a sizeable decline from a year back.

The dismal performance of European construction has cast an unfortunate shadow over the rest of the group which is actually performing quite well. The North American automotive market has been chugging along nicely for three years now and shows no signs of slowing. Even in Enrope, the building malaise has not affected the car market where the consolidation of former Italian state owned glass maker STV helped sales double in the half.

On the basis of forecasts of £190m for the year to next March and £230m in the following 12 months, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 16, falling to about 13. For a company that should rightly trade on

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN ing programme has been slowed to enable management to concentrate on getting the existing business right. In the UK profits were flat but the Body

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

PILKINGTON : AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.77bn, share price 171o-

Share price period

market, to compensate for the volatility of its earnings, that does not appear unduly cheap and there is little support from a yield of under 4 per cent.

US weighs on **Body Shop**

Body Shop was sounding a lot more positive yesterday even though its problems in the cut-throat US market show no signs of abating. Sales of facepacks and all-over body lotions are walking off the shelves in Asia, ap-parently, And the Australian business has boomeranged from loss to profit

in the past year. These developments were behind a 30 per cent hike in profits to £11.8m in the six months to August. With the progressive dividend policy continuing with a near-40 per cent rise to 1.5p, the shares responded by ticking up 4.5p to 200p. Management is particularly bull-ish about prospects in Asia where there are 202 shops. This market ac- to run its US division. The store open-

Trading record

Dividends per share (pence)

Glass profit by region (2m)

a significant discount to the rest of the counts for more than half group profits and new stores are opening rapidly. The feeling is that Body Shop is viewed as a luxury goods retailer in the Far East which may enable it to edge

prices up on certain products such as its new skincare range.

But encouraging though this is, the real beliwether of Body Shop sentiment is its performance in America. Unfortunately for Body Shop investors the company's performance there is still poor. Group like-for-like sales were up by 1 per cent across all markets. But they fell 4 per cent in the US and are 7 per cent down in the eight weeks since the end of the half-year. US losses rose

from £2.4m to £3.4m in the period. The problem remains ferocious competition coupled with a product range and store portfolio not as good as it might be. Body Shop is up against rivals such as Bath & Body Works and Garden Botannica and customers are used to frequent changes of product and regular promotions. Rivals have been delivering, Body Shop has not.

The company has recruited Steen Kanter, who introduced Ikea to the US,

Shop Direct bome selling programme has been extended to 170 stores with more than 1,000 consultants.

Analysts are forecasting full-year profits of £38m which puts the shares on a forward rating of 17. About

Worst may be over for Arjo

The collapse in paper prices since the middle of last year has hammered Arjo Wiggins Appleton: Persistent over-optimism about the state of the European market, and a restructuring plan-that is seen by analysis as too little too late, have added to the group's problems as far as the City is concerned. After a switch-back ride, the shares, up 4p to 165p yesterday, are back almost exactly where they were at the start of

the year.

The latest bout of cautious optimism is based on hopes that the worst may be over. Yesterday the group said sales in the first nine months of the year were up 3.9 per cent to £2.70m. including a 2.8 per cent gain in the third quarter. The bald figures are flattered by last year's acquisitions. Stripping out distortions, sales were down 7.4 per cent in the nine months and 3.2 per cent in the latest quarter.

Given price falls which saw pulp skump from \$1,000 a tonne to \$400 beween last summer and this spring, that is not too bad a result and there are clear signs the market has bottomed out. While turnover slipped from £895m to £841m in the seasonally weaker third quarter, volumes were slightly ahead. Although there has been some restoration of stocks since February and March, the company denies seeing any significant stock-building amongst its European customers. Given previous failures to read the market, that view may prove optimistic and the European arena clearly remains

highly competitive.

But the problem for Arjo remains that its key carbonless and thermal papers are in long-term decline, requiring continuous restructuring. Saint Louis, the dominant 40 per cent sharebolder, has been wielding the big stick, but it is difficult to see where the excitement will come from unless it sells out. Profits could rise from £130m this year to £210m next, putting the shares on a forward p/e of 10. Fair value.

Surge in oil prices helps lacklustre Shell out of trouble

Business Correspondent ·

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, announced another set of lacklustre results yesterday as the unexpected surge in the price of oil helped to offset crashing chem-icals earnings and the continuing drain from the world-wide petrol price war.

The group's net income in the third quarter of the year rose by 26 per cent to £1.33bn. However, the improvement was entirely due to a 74 per cent jump in earnings from oil exploration and production to £599m. Underlying income from re-fining and marketing activities

slumped by 27 per cent to £422m while chemicals earnings dived by 40 per cent to £189m. The figures, which were slightly below expectations, disappointed the markets. Shares in Shell Transport, the UK side of the group, fell by 13p to

John Toalster, an oil analyst from investment bankers Soci-.

again it's a mixed bag. It's disappointing that oil prices are up so much and oil sales were so strong and yet profits on those businesses could have been better. These results don't compare particularly favourably with the US oil companies."
Oil prices between June and

September averaged \$20.90 a barrel, some \$4.75 higher than during the same period a year ago. At one stage in September the price of Brent crude hit \$23.50. The impact of the oil price surge was particularly marked in the United States, where income from Shell's businesses more than doubled to £155m. Earnings in the rest of the world were up by 62 per cent

However leading oil analysts from NatWest yesterday sug-gested the industry may have already seen the best of the price eases. The possible resumption of oil supplies from Iraq if the deal to trade oil for

US presidential elections this month could result in a considerable softening in oil prices by the end of the year.

The biggest surprise from Sbell came from the 5 per cent boost to its production volumes, which was far higher than most other oil firms and was about double the world growth rate. Gas production rose even further, by 18 per cent.
Shell's troubled refining op-

erations were hit once again by stiff petrol price competition. The increase in petrol prices over the past few months has failed to keep pace with the rise in crude oil prices, resulting in weaker relining profit margins.

The figures also disclosed that Shell remained some way off meeting its internal target for the rate of return earned on it assets. The return on capital of 11 per cent in the 12 months to the end of September compares with a target of 12 per cent, though an improvement on the 10.4 per cent figure for food aid goes ahead after the the year to end of June.

Medeva wins court case.

Magnus Grimond

Medeva, the drugs group, yes-terday won final victory in its le-gal battle to defend its novel Hepatitis B vaccine against ri-vals Biogen of the US.

The House of Lords threw out an appeal by Biogen at-tempting to overturn an earlier ruling by the Court of Appeal that Medeva's drug, Hepagene, did not infringe its patent over

Alexandra Hockenbull, a Medeva spokeswoman, said: The outcome sends a very strong signal. We trad felt ex-tremely confident all along. We had a decisive victory in the appeal court and now, with an-other decisive victory in the Medeva in the High Court in peal court and now, with an-

· The group still faces a separate patent infringement action over Hepagene filed in 1993 by Pastenr-Merieux, a French drugs group. However, it bad not proceeded "expeditiously" with the claim, she said, and a trial date had not yet been requested or set.

The drug, which is still under development, was acquired for a little over £3m by Medeva in 1992 from a group of Swiss and German scientists known as

Biogen, whose own Hepati-tis B vaccine is licensed to SmithKline Beecham and Mer-

House of Lords, we feel even more confident." 1993. But the House of Lords ruled yesterday that Biogen's ruled yesterday that Biogen's patent was invalid in the UK.

Medeva said it hoped to announce the results of phase three trials of Hepagene as a vaccine in January, with phase two proof of principal tests on its effectiveness as a treatment due by the end of this year. Estimates suggest that around 30 million people in the world carrying the Hepatitis B virus are highly infectious.

Biogen's chief executive, Jim Vincent, said: "Although we expect to continue receiving our UK royalties of less than a million dollars annually based on the surviving Hepatitis B patent, we are clearly disappointed by today's decision."

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CableTel to offer 'free' channels

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

International CableTel, the camost radical retiering yet of cable TV and telephony services, cable companies provide. Mail's Channel One.

The retiering will result in telephony subscribers being given three cable channels rower range of channels, lead-

"free" - Sky One, UK Gold and ing to fears that some broadmusic station VH-1, the sister station to MTV. Thereafter, consumers will be able to ble company that owns trans- choose from a range of cable usual large basic package that

at the risk of infuriating chan-nels such as Michael Green's Channel One and Carlton Se-lect are offered to all Cable Tel Carlton Select and the Daily TV subscribers as part of its basic tier. But the radical retier-

Cable Tel is expected to argue that its "free" tier will be offered mission giant NTL, is expected TV packages. The offering is to those who elect to take tele-to unveil today the industry's radically different from the phony only, and that these customers are not, in fact, cable 1 V subscribers.

would offer a range of telephone and cable TV packages as part of its own attempt to tar-

The industry is in the midst casters will find it difficult to of an inventory of its channels. build audiences. in order to retier and to make way for new services. Many broadcasters are concerned the niche channels will suffer if too many cable operators move toward a la carte or so-ca

"small basic" packages. CableTel's retiering follows last week's announcement by Nynex CableComms that it wake of the four way merger last week of Nynex, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Mercury, creating the nation's get its products more effectively. largest cable company.

In Brief

 US claims for regular state unemployment benefits rose 23,000 to 342,000 for the week ended 26 October from a revised 319,000 the previous week, the Labor Department said. Jobiess claims for the week ending 19 October were revised to a decrease of 23,000 to 319,000, after they were originally reported as a decrease of 22,000 to 320,000. Separately, US consumer spending rose 0.1 per cent in September, and personal income rose 0.6 per cent, the Commerce Department said.

 Southern Newspapers plans to merge its publishing and printing operations and so reduce its workforce by between 10 and 15 per cent over two years. The company said it would merge its Bournemouth-based central and its Southampton-based eastern regions into a single southern region. The restructuring resulted from new technology and better use of shared resources, it said. The job losses, which will affect up to 200 posts across all departments, include 35 voluntary redundancies

 Guinness Peat Group said it had been unable to conduct fur-ther discussions with the board of Gowrings and had dropped its takeover plans for the vehicles and fast food company. GPG said it remained convinced that Gowrings prospects were lim-ited by the modest scale of its disparate businesses and that it would benefit from being part of a larger group.

 Some 40 per cent of small firms in London do not use computers, casting doubt on claims that the information revolution has transformed most businesses. The survey of 2,500 small businesses, from the Central London Training and Enterprise Council, also found only 22 per cent of those responding had access to the Internet and just 8 per cent thought that the internet had

 Air London International, the world's largest air charter broker, aunounced record profits for the year to July. Profit before tax increased by 104 per cent to £2.19m on a 20 per cent rise in turnover to £335m. The final dividend of 4.1p gave a 50 per cent rise for the year to 6p and a further 10p special dividend is to be paid in view of a 20 per cent rise in net cash at the company to £7.06m.

	6 0 00	PANY RESULT	3	
·	Taragver £	Pro-tax £	EP\$	Divident
Air Landon Int (F)	35m (29in)	2.19m (1.07m)	14.9p (7.6p)	4.1p (5p)
Bertam Holdings (I)	1.9bn (1.3bn)	13.78m (1.05m)	65.7p (3.16p)	4p (tba)
Bedy Shop lei (I)	117m (105m)	11.8m (9.1m)	. 3.8p (2.8p)	1.5p (2.8p)
Caspian Group (1)	1.2m (768,900)	-80,000 (-541,000)	-0.07p (-0.56p)	piř .
धिकोक्शक्तिका केर्र (I)	1.7m (1.1m)	-897,297 (109,874)	-1.65p (0.42p)	pil .
Factoria Heldings (1)	7.3m (7.5m)	157,000 (-Z.62m)	ns (-11p)	雌
Just Group (1)	772,000 (779,000)	-218,000 (101,000)	-0.14p (0.11p)	p å ·
interpression (F)	9m (6.5m)	574,000 (401,000)	8.43p (5.17p)	25p (5.8p)
Pillingian (I)	1.5km (†.3ke)	75m (104m)	3.2p (7.3p)	1.75p (1.75p)
Roma investmente (1)	3.45m (4m)	7.5m (2.82m)	12.91p (3.55p)	pil.
Tombico Brissp (f)	33.8m (6.1m)	-3.54m (2.11m)	-3.80p (4.61p)	all .

Price set for Thomas and Brands Hatch

Two eye-catching new issues were priced yesterday as Thomas the Tank Engine and Brands Hatch prepare to come

to the market The Britt Alkroft company, which produces "Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends" will be priced at 130p a share, valuing the company at £30m. The placing involves 8.5 million hares with dealings due to

start on 6 November. Brands Hatch Leisure, which perates the famous Kent racing track as well as others at Cadwell Park, will be priced at

£34.3m. The flotation will raise £9.3m which will be used to reduce bank borrowings and to fund investment in new catering, retail and entertainment facilities at the tracks.

Brands Hatch Leisure recorded pre-tax profits of £1.1m on sales of £11.7m in the year to December 1995. It is forecasting profits of not less than £2.5m for the current year. On the basis of the pro formes earnings per share, the share will trade on a forward rating of 16. Dealings are expected to

commence on 7 November. Four directors are intending to subscribe for 410,000 shares at the flotation price.

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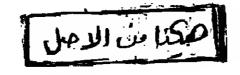
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As presidential elections this, number could result in a con-iderable softening in oil prices

w the end of the year.
The biggest surprise from shell came from the 5 per cent worst to its production vol-inces, which was far higher than nost other oil tirms and was about double the world growth

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Turther represent of cable IN offerings a expected in the waka of the Colonary merger host week of Noney Bell Co-Plentedia, Vol. of an and Mer-COIN, Cival ate the mation Entered colds company

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Cookson cool as downgradings cause song and dance

Cookson, the industrial materials conglomerate, had the stock market on the hop. Earlier this week NatWest Secu-rities, long time bears of the shares, issued its umpteenth cantionary builetin, cutting its profit forecasts by £20m to £170m and by £10m to £200m.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett quickly followed. It lowered its expectations by £7m to £171m and by £6m to £190m. The two cuts, which seemed to relate to the performance of Cookson's electronics side, immediately produced a clamour that the company should put out a

Nat West, which met Cook-son before adjusting its figures, had left the shares 7p lower at 237p with its downgrade. Hoare Govert's intervention clipped them another 10.5p to 226.5p, lowest for more than a year. Cookson, however, remained relaxed about it all, dismissing calls it should produce

and maintained the Exchange

was happy with the situation.

After Wednesday's interest rate surprise the market buckled down to, in football jargon, grinding out a result and Footsie ended 15.2 points higher at 3,979.1. However, emphasising in cold figures it was entirely a blue-chip display, the supporting indices gave ground. Today's US payroll statistics, famous for spooking the market, kept the lid on enthusiasm. Utilities again attracted supports with the high said.

port with the high-yielders said to be encouraging income funds. National Power and PowerGen led the charge. It was claimed buyers were frontrunning an expected UBS buy circular. NP gained 13.5p to 407p and PG 18p to 510p. Waters were also firmer.

Asda, the superstores chain, was the best-performing blue



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

chip, up 4.5p to 117.5p, on evidence it was continuing to increase its market share. Watson & Philip, the convenience shops group, fell 13.5p to 392.5p. The shares have slipped 74p since Monday's cautious trading statement.

Communication shares were again active, ahead of to-day's relaxation of ownership rules. Workshire Tyne Tees Television, where a move to the Crest computerised trading settlement system is near, found another high, up 25p at 1,267.5p. Grampian, another obvious target, improved 27.5p to 327.5p. Others higher in-cluded Border and HTV.

Cowie, the transport group.

stock market reporter of the year

was caught by the referral of its British Bus takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, falling 6p to 359p after 338p. Manchester Utd's poor run took its toll, clipping the shares 19p to 514p. Blacks

Leisure, ahead of figures, added 8.5p to 293.5p.

Newcomers had a mixed reception. Jardinerie, the inreception. Jardinerie, the in-terior plants group, displayed a few green shoots, growing to 125p from its 114p placing; Mondas, the computer group placed at 75p, closed at 90.5p. Deep Sea Leisure, placed at 160p and seemingly offering lit-tle information about itself, suf-ferred a 2.5p fall from its 160p fered a 2.5p fall from its 160p

Builders were undermined by the interest rate increase and BAA, the airports group, fell 9.5p to 497.5p on worries about any windfall tax an incoming Labour government

might produce.

Memory Corporation, repairing defective computer chips, rallied 11.5p to 66.5p.
The shares midged 480p last

The company has signed an licensing agreement with an as yet unidentified US group. With the price of computer chips moving slowly off their low MC could, say its fans, be over the worst.

Magnum Power, providing uninterrupted power for com-puters, fell 2p to 25.5p despite support from long-standing backer Henry Cooke Lumsden. The stockbroker believes the company, which is raising £3.4m through a placing at 20p a share, could make profits of £300,000 in 1998 and the

shares represent a recovery

Wace, the printer, slumped 65p to 69.5p after its third profit warning this year. Wellman, the engineer. fell a further 6.5p to 29.5p following its trading statement on Wednesday which had already cut the shares 13.5p. Among the biotechs ML Laboratory, weak lately despite bullish circulars, put on 18.5p to 274p and Sco-

nudged its shareholding high-er to 5.48 per cent. Verity, with its wafer-thin sound reproduction system, continued to win support, gaining a further 1p to a 42.5p peak.

tia rose 34p to 610p as Capital, the US investment group.

Vardon, the leisure group running the Sea Life centres, has the support of stockbroker Charles Stanley which is looking for profits of £11.2m this year, with £18.3m pencilled in for 1998. The shares were little changed at 88.5p.

Eurovein, the filtration upment maker, continues to suffer from profit warnings following its flotation at 141p

Although there are fears of a cash call the company, at 62.5p, is struggling out of its gloom and stockbroker Albert E Sharp expects profits of £2m this year and £2.2m next

New Goernsey Securities Trust, the obscure operation chosen by Andrew Regan as his new stock market vehicle, jumped 40p to 435p, a near-100p gain in two days. The shares are an exceedingly thin market. Mr Regan never quite lived up to expectations with his Hobsons food vehicle, sold to Hillsdown Holdings. He and associates are paying 203p a share for 70 per cent. NGST is to be re-named Lancia for the Regan

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Government Securities

Supermarket giant will be a financial minnow

's Sainsbury's likely to revolutionise the banking industry with its plan to set up a bank? Or is this just another marketing gimmick in the store wars, which will be here today and forgotten tomorrow?

On the face of it, the supermarket chain's plan certainly has a tot going for it, and the big clearing banks have been given much food for thought. With millions of customers and a strong brand name. Sainsbury's has access already to a customer base comparable with the biggest of the

The fact that the company has decided to set up a prop-er bank, in conjunction with Bank of Scotland, is another plus point, since it could allow Sainsbury's to offer a full banking service, not a pale imitation. This distinguishes it from Tesco's Club Card Plus ac-

count, which is like a savings account with an overdraft facility and amounts to no more than a custom-designed service from NatWest with Tesco's badge stuck on it. With the precedent of the su-

permarkets' entry into petrol retailing, which set off a price war and indirectly led to the closure of a lot of smaller garages, the traditional high street banks and building socicties could be in for a rough ride if Sainsbury's version of supermarket banking works.

There is, however, one supermarket chain that has long had a bank as an integral part of the organisation. It is, of course, the Co-op, which has had miniature banks in its stores since the early 1970s. Indeed, the Co-op movement can boast that it invented the eash-back service in the late 19th century, by offering to cash customers cheques in its stores.

The Co-op's supermarket chain may not bave the reputation in the food retailing



Peter Rodgers

Sainsbury's will compete head on with other telephone

banks on service and cost competitiveness as well as brand name. It is

throwing its hat into a very crowded ring

tween financial services and

supermarkets.
The Co-op bas 5,000 stores of all sizes, including 1,800 supermarkets and 94 superstores. About 1.000 stores have some form of banking outlet, including 250 with counters operated by professional bank staff and many more with cash

The m-store banks were set up in the 1970s because the Coop Bank wanted to expand but could not afford the coormous expense of building a national Office, which was once its pareot, in much the same way.

Harrods also bas an in-store bank to tap its upmarket customers, while across the Atlantic, the Bank One group bas long specialised successfully in supermarket banking.

Nowadays, the Co-op Bank is much tess reliant on its in-store branches. It has become a full-scale telephone bank with 1.5 million customers, fighting in the same marketplace as First Direct, the Midland subsidiary that put telephone banking on the na-tional map, and a bost of similar services now being bolted

That is exactly the battle-ground Sainsbury's bas chosen. With Bank of Scotland, it is setting up a centralised telephone banking operation. The role of the stores appears to be to promote the telephone bank-ing service. That means Sainsbury's will be competing head-on with other telephone banks on service and cost competitiveness, as well as brand name. It is throwing its hat into

on to other clearing banks.

a very crowded ring. The Co-op experience shows that the synergy between retailing and banking is decidedly patchy. No detailed figures are available, but the Co-op says the overlap between banking and retailing customers is not particularly

There appears to be no magic recipe for converting the queues at the checkout into banking customers. Perfectly good retail customers may not necessarily be the ones to wbom a bank would wish to lend money or sell other financial services.

The customers may take the same view. It is not a foregone conclusion that they will be prepared to trust a retailer with their money, no matter how good its oame as a supof food. They may prove sceptical.

ing if Sainsbury's tries to offer its services to all its retail customers. Imagine customers' reactions if they were refused credit because of a history of getting behind on payments, or because their earnings were too low to qualify.

Supermarkets have a rather good public image, which they promote at vast expense, while banks have always had a poor one. It could be rather risky to mix the two businesses.

As Tim Sykes, a banking an-alyst at BZW, says, Sainsbury's will have some important competitive advantages. The strength of the brand name is one. Another advantage is that it should be able to offer a very cheap banking service.

This is because the Bank of Scotland subsidiary that will be doing the processing work for the new Sainsbury's bank basexceptionally low operating costs, so should be able to compete on customer charges with the big clearers - though the advantage will not be so marked against building soc-There are, however, good

reasons for thinking that after the initial rapid expansion which is characteristic of startups, Sainsbury's may not find its oew bank growing into an-other high street financial services giant, at least within the next decade. One is the Co-op experience. Another is that hanking ties up substantial amounts of expensive capital, which under Bank of England rules must be topped up

There is no point in fighting for market share in intensely competitive financial services if all it brings is a price war and an unprofitable business that does not justify the capital devoted to it.

as the deposit base increases

Sainsbury's may have 12 million customers. But among the established hanks, Barclays, NatWest and Lloyds TSB already have 40 million eed, owning a bank could and they are not going to let go of them easily.

make an after-dinner mint

The former industrialist and management guru Sir John Harvey-Jones held the record for after-dinner speaking fees for some time at £7,000 per 20 minute speech. Now I hear that the great troubleshooter has removed himself from the speech list and other industrialists are vying for the title. Apparently Professor Roland Smith, former chief of British Aerospace and a ubiquitous figure in UK boardrooms, is keen to claim the record. I prefer Bob Monkhouse myself.

The National Life Story Collection at the British National nating series of tape interviews with leading City figures going back to just after the First World War.

Sir John Craven, Sir Martin Jacomb, George Nissen and Lord Rothschild are just some of the 150 people interviewed for the reflections on life in the Square Mile.

The project, "City Lives," includes some resonant quotes from the likes of David Verey of Lazards. Mr Verey was called in by Barings just as the Nick Leeson disaster was being unearthed and recalls breaking the news to the Barings bosses that rescue talks for the bank had been abandoned.

"I remember John Ashbur-

ton saying, 'It's just impossi-ble to believe that 250 years of independence have come to an end literally over a weekend because of a rogue trader in Singapore.' I was standing on the 20th floor of Barings with John and Nicholas [Baring] and there was a beautiful sunset over the western part of the City and we just-looked out into this great ball of fire and the sun sinking and it was rather

an emotional moment." Another bit I liked was Charles McVeigh III of Salomons, reflecting on the inadequacy of the Bank of England's £10bn war chest when it tried to stop specula-tors driving sterling out of the ERM three years ago, "It was PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Industry's big cheeses look to



The £350-a-minute man: Sir John Harvey-Jones

nothing. It was like a tip to the bat-check girl in a bar.'

Going back to Barings, Anthony McGrath, corporate finance director at its new incarnation ING Barings, bas been invited to become one of the trustees of the English

National Stadium Trust. The project is to build a mega-stadium at Wembley suitable for the next century. Hessel Lindebergh, chief executive of ING Barings, welcomes the appointment: "ING sponsor the Dutch national football team and so

is more than appropriate that ING Barings should be involved in some small way in the rebuilding of a British national sports stadium."
Rund Gullit would be

The grip of Austria tightens on our utility regulators day by day. Nothing to do with an enlarged European Union this, but rather the influence of the late Austrian economist Friederich von Hayek. Eileen Marshall, bead of regulation at Ofgas and a

free-market views, is being seconded one day a week to Offer, the electrical equivalent, where Stephen Littlechild is also a true believer.

Ms Marshall, nicknamed The Ice Maiden because of her cool approach, was the architect of the gas price review. She spent five years with Mr Littlechild before joining Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas.

The Building Societies Association and the Council of Mortgage Lenders are finally getting divorced. It may seem odd that the same secretarial under the able Adrian Coles has been able to represent the interests of mutual building societies and the banks that have competed with them in the mortgage mar-kets. With societies like the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester converting to banks next year the strain has become too great, says Sue Anderson, until now a spokeswoman for both the

BSA and CML. Societies want their trade association to champion the merits of mutuality against those of pics, says Ms Anderson, and the two roles no

eductions may be

Water Control

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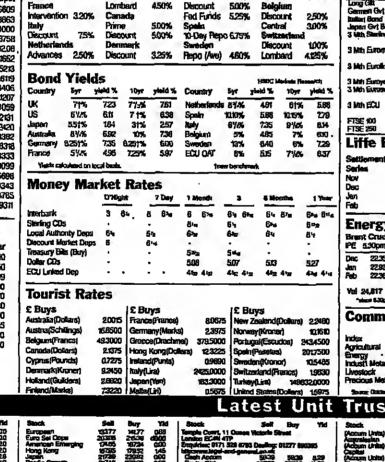
longer mix.

She is going to the CML, while Mr Coles goes to the BSA, where be will have to hire a new press spokesper-son. Michael Coogan will take over as director general of the CML next year.

They will have to stay in the same building. "The CML will bave its own lockable office space," Ms Anderson insists, thus preventing any possible confusion.

And finally, Yorkshire Bank bucks the trend. All the other banks printed announcements in the newspapers yesterday that they would be raising their interest rates following. the Chancellor's quarter-point rise. Yorkshire, however, stated in the FT that its "base rate is reduced from 5.75 per cent to 6.00 per cent.

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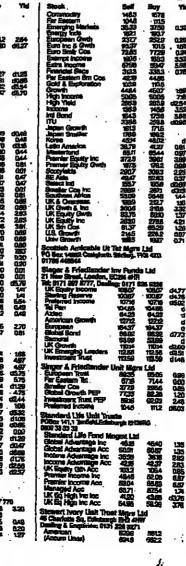


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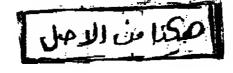
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d Fund h sect	tensive list of Unit Trusts and Mar- is, ranked by performance within ar and including offer prices, to in Seturday editions of the Indi-





THE INDEPENDENT

ration and the Council of dentgage Lenders are finally erling divorced. It may seem seld that the same secretariat inder the able Adrian Coles las been able to represent he interests of mutual buildng societies and the banks hat have competed with hem in the mortgage maricts. With societies blie the lalitax and Albance A leicester converting to banks text year the strain has beonic too great, says Sue Inderson, until now a pokeswoman for both the

She is going to the UML vhile Mr Coles goes to the 38A, where he will love to the affew press spekesper. ner as director general of

They will have to star in he same building. The CAIL will have the own lookable. office space," My Anderson, usists, thus preventing any

sucks the frend. Ab the other sands product announcements in the newspapers vesterally deat they would be raining from interest rates following the 1 hance that's quarter-point use. Yorkshire, however, agged in the Lithauns base ration's reduced from 5.75 per-

the Building Societies Associates

ant. Michael Congan vill take he CML nevi year

will to be fill by the office.

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1115049

against the system Racing RICHARD EDMONDSON

For those who think Flat racing is for poodles, a dilettante sport in the sun for the overpaid, the real stuff begins in earnest at Wetherby tomorrow. One Man and a select field congregate for the Charlie Hall Chase and true National Hunt aficionados will be happy only if the temperature plummets and the sleet arrives horizootally.

As is the trend in the winter game, and in the early season especially, tomorrow's chase will be an intimate affair with few hoofprints left behind. The grey is likely to have just Scottoo Banks, Barton Bank and

Young Hustler for company. It is the helief of Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course at Cheltenham and Haydock, that ill-cootested races, oumerically at least, are the product of a dearth of good class competitors. This is not an opinion he should voice if he sees Gordon Richards, One Man's trainer, within earshot.

Betting-shop punters could be

in line for a large incentive to bet as bookmakers seek to off-

set the damage caused by the National Lottery. Bookmak-

ers' representatives yesterday

pledged to cut off-course de-

ductions from punters hets to

7.5% from the current rate of

9% - if the Chancellor, Kenneth

Clarke, reduces the rate of gen-

eral betting duty by 1.25% in the Budget on 26 November. A rate

of 7.5% would be the lowest for

25 years wheo betting-shop

punters were taxed at just 6%.

BANGOR

Centaur Express 4.30 Johnny-K

BLINERED FIRST TIME: Little Embers (1.10).

nners in the last seven dats: N

1.10 Indrapura 1.40 Major Bell 2.10 Sublime Fellow 2.45 Marsden Rock 3.20 by Home 3.55

GOING: Good to Soft:

Left-hand, undulating course; run-in \$25/yds.

Course is 4m 35 of Westhain near Junction of A525 and B5060.

But service from Westham status, ADMSSTON: Paddlet 58;
Course 54 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Pres.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Andean (1.40) has been seen 229 miles by G Euricht from Lewes, E Smarry, Major Bell (1.40) seet 196 miles by A Whillams from Newall-on-Shaig, Bordons.

1.10 HALLIWELL LANDAU NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 1f

1.40 CORBETT BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 2m 4f 110yds

2.10 JONES PECKOVER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 1f 110yds

1 3LZPO-1 SUBJECT PELLOW (JA) N Hercheson B 11 5LM A Fitogerald
2 552153. JANUARY PELLOW (JA) N Hercheson B 11 5LM A Fitogerald
2 552154. JANUARY THE GALE DESG D Carcotic 3 10 12.... IN Democracy
3 204234 BETARESCORRETT (48) 8 Brugh 5 10 12.... I J Marphy B
4 PP44P5- CAPTARI STOCKPORD (207) P Wagnarm 9 10 12... I J Hamply B
5 60F050- HEATHYRIDG BOY (185) 0 McCain 6 10 12... D Walsh (3)
8 5P5-066 HOUN NAMELS (8) 8 Presc B 10 12.... V Stationy
7 F00150- ANNAMA (1908) P (190 1) 10 V Hamply B
6 635634- MONTANOS (190) Mrs 5 Smith 7 10 12.... R Wildenson (7)
9 00111-4 NATSHIN (146) P (146 6 10 12.... R Wildenson (7)
10 1642-PF RAFEESS (8) 1M Bendry 7 10 12...... R Wildenson (7)
11 0009- TWICE SHY (220) M Shappord 5 10 12...... R Powell
11 0009- TWICE SHY (220) M Shappord 5 10 12...... B Powell
12 1000 P (146 6 10 146

HYPERION 1.30 Mim-Lou-And 2.00 Golden Helio 2.35 Daily Boy 3.10 Political Tower 3.45 The Last Filing

Left-hand oval circuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill. Course is north-east of town on 21224 near junction of Ab8

and A1. ADMISSION: Club \$13 (accompanied under-16s free); Tatternalla 57; Course £2 (cars, including up to 4 adults £6). CAR

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None, WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: John Absent (4.20) won

nt Wincomon on Sunday.

LONG-DISTANCS EURNERS: Queen's Award (4,20) has been

1.30 LINTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) 57,000 added 470 2m

1144-5 (1) EPROS (1977 (D) M Harmond 11 4 R Gamby PR4111 : EPROS (1977 (D) M Harmond 11 4 R Gamby 423350 HOLDERS HEL (282) (D) M Mongrer 10 13 A Magnite 12211-1 Mod-LOU-AND (27) (D) Mas H Right 10 12 P Nam 120222 ANN MRSSON (277) (ED) T Embry 10 5 1 Wycz 144125 HEGHERMEK (1961) (ED) Mas M Remoley 10 2 G Leo (3)

= 7 decembs = 1 decembs = 7 de

2.00 WETHERBY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m

sem 267 miles from Melphan, Domes, by R Buckler.

1144-51 ALLTIME DANCER (7) (7) 0 Sterwood 11 10 ..

4.20 Jolis Absent

SIS.

COING: Good.

JR Kevenuch
D J Morfett
A Thornton
D Bentley
M A Florgenisi

highly charged on this topic and blames the official handicapper. for the shrinking fields. If a young horse runs well against a proven animal in a cooditions race, the Richards lore goes, it

sons to come. "There are decent chasers around, but the ground has been dry and trainers know One Man is going on Saturday,"

may destroy his career for sea-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Shouldbegrey (Newmarket 4.15) NB: Bright Water (Newmarket 1.55)

he said yesterday. "There are always going to be small fields for these races, because horses rated a stone behind him are not going to take him on. I did the same thing with One Man a year ago because I knew I could go

and win a handicap with him:
"Twe only got a little yard and I've got six or seven good class horses. There's The Grey Monk who won all six of his races last

The Bookmakers' Commit-

tee, which represents 70% of the

bookmaking industry, including

the big three firms, is to press for action as the result of a study

"A further 1.25% reduction

in the duty is needed to bring the industry back into line with

the pre-1994 Lottery position,"

the committee's vice chairman,

John Brown, said. "Should the

Chancellor agree to this then we

would move immediately to

translate that into a 1.5% re-

duction in the betting tax."

undertaken for them.

Deductions may be cut

One Man and his trainer

doesn't want to run his horse at level weights and end up putting lead on his horse. This has been the problem all through my training life, and any good trainer, a man who knows about horses, doesn't go on taking on good horses at level weights.
You hear these other people talking poppycock, but they aren't trainers. You've got to do the best for your horse or you

get whipped." One Man himself was whipped on his final outing of last season in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, his only defeat of the campaign. The gelding travelled smoothly to the third last obstacle that day but then reacted as if someone had pulled the plug out. He negotiated the last like a schoolboy scram-

bling over the orchard wall. Most observers judged this as a failure of stamina, bur, fol-lowing a post mortem of seven months, Richards fails to agree with them. "We still can't put a

HYETHON

FADSTIFT

Imperior proved the most subject over the last motion, detecting the 13 representatives of the newspaper in the facing Rost's National Pless Challenge. The contraction takes into account selections made for every face during the mostic and of all the corportions, by

of all the competiturs. Hy-perion was the only lipsies to record a brofit to a level

on all selections.

NEILSON COBBOLD CONDITIONALS H'CAP

2.45 HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,750 2m 4f

3.20 TARPORLEY HUNT HANDICAP CHASE

3.20 (CLASS F) £5,000 added 3rt 110yds
20215- BMSBLUBS (271) (b) MarS Smith 7 12 0 A P Milharin (7)
20235- BMSB (2008) (274) Milharin 9 12 0 A P Milharin (7)
20235- BMSB (2008) (274) Milharin 9 12 0 A P Milharin (7)
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20213-2 MIDROS PHINTE (27) (9) Mins A Brithern 11 11 8 ... Roundon
5 500230 MIDROS MAINE (2004) (4 Willhard 7 11 4 J F Timpy
20213-2 MIDROS MAINE (2004) (4 Willhard 7 11 4 J F Timpy
20213-2 MIDROS MAINE (2004) (4 Willhard 7 11 4 J F Timpy
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20213-2 MINTER (2014) (4 Willhard 7 11 4 J F Timpy
20213-2 MINTER (2014) (4 Willhard 7 11 4 J F Timpy
20213

3.55 STANLEY LEISURE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 1f

- 10 declared - Makeum weight 10st. The handless weight Mukeumerg Out 10th, Alds Man-

ore say /m. BETTING: 2-1 Centeer Express, 7-2 Cooley's Velve, 6-1 United Front, 7-1 Timeseq, 8-1 Painte's Bast, Pricescod Pictur, 10-1 others 4.30 BANGOR INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT

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JEMARY W Jeris 5 11 4

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LANGSHIL J Frofesia 5 11 4

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ZAMBER N VARION DAYS 4 11 4

O POLLEUMS (48) J.L. Harris 6 10 13

2.35 GREEN HAMMERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

061182- TANKA RADIELER (1985) (2) Mars S Hall 7 11 10 N Bentley 000405- BESUT DAY (190) (CD) S M Moon 6 11 6 ____ J Calleghan 300611- MASTER HYDE (227) DB W Soney 7 11 7 ___ R McGhath (5) 15224-2 DALLY BBY (237) Eastery 4 11 0 _____ J Wyst 3781- ADMITHUS SERI (233) M W Sonethy 8 10 8 ____ A Magnin-

3.10 CHASE (CLASS C) E7,000 added 2m

04411-2 POLITICAL TOWER (21) (CD) (SP) R Nicon 8 11.2 ... A Octobe 035122- ALMORER (UGA) (207) M W Excerby 7 10.4 ... A Magaine 8 2P212-3 REBAL ROMPER (20) (D) Mrs 5 Smith 8 10.2

- 4 declared -SETTING: 2-1 Konvekta Hing, 8-4 Aladest, 3-1 Political Young, 4-1 No.

3.45 TOCKWITH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C)

21150.1 THE LAST PLING (20) Mrs S Smith 6 11.5 _____ Richard Guest
12F201 YOUNG DEELBER (20) Ends Bolger 7 11.5 _____ A Magdate
SR1132- CHOPWELL CHITCHES (204) 1 Essetly 6 11.0 _____ L Wyer
613-52 COMMANDEER (26) Use M Million 8 11.0 _____ A 3 Smith

- 4 doctored -BETTON: 11-8 Chapters Cortains, 2-1 Young Dubliner, 9-4 The Last Flag

4.20 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,750 added 3m 1f

1 211/538 KONTEKIA KING (240 60) 0 Stervood 8 11 10...

RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 1f

25504-2 MY HOUSE IN J J O'Nell 8 11 2...

026-579 BENDLEY HOUSE (IM R Curts 9 10 10

season!, but what's the point of finger on what happened, it's still putting him in it? He'd go up a a mystery, but I wouldn't agree that he didn't stay," he said. "If "Any trainer with any brains he'd have gone to the last and not stayed up the hill I might have believed it, but he's won at three and a quarter miles round Newbury [in the Hennessy Gold Cup of 1994]. It was very disappointing, but he's still rated the top horse [oo an official mark of 175, with the Gold Cup winner Imperial Call!

After tomorrow's vecture. One Man is scheduled to follow a fertile path in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock and Kempton's King George VI Chase, both of which he won with some disdain last year. Then the eight-year-old will reacquaint himself with Cheltenham in January before a return to Prestbury Park for the Blue Riband.

His trainer still thinks hugety of One Man and when he describes the grey he might be looking in a mirror. "He's in good order at the moment," Richards said. "He's the same nice horse we saw last year, strong and round and cosy."



Godolphin's Easy Option (left) falls to overhaul Astrac at Nottingham yesterday

Photograph: David Ashdown

Easy Option fails to work for Bin Suroor

Saced Bin Surpor extended his lead over Henry Cecil by a mere £379 in the trainers' championship yesterday following the disappointing run of Easy

options in the Sociation Stakes a well-heaten fourth behind the easy winner, Astrac, Cecil was without runners yesterday. ourite and appeared not to stay the six furlongs, fading to finish

but has three representatives at Newmarket today.

TRAINERS' CHAMPIONSHIP £1,904,283 Seeed Bin Bin Survey leads by £31,747

NEWMARKET

12.50 ELNADIM (cap) 1.20 Barnum Sands

305 Kilcullen Lad 3.40 Totally Yours 4.15 Shouldbegrey

2.30 Orchestra Stall (nb) GOING: Good. STALLS: In 4f & 3m - far side; remainder - centre.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with 1m 2f straight III registrated course war arm 2 surages.

III Course is 5W of town on A1304. Boe link from Unmbridge and Newmarket sessions.

ADMISSION: Cuth \$14 (18 to 25-year-old) 58); Grandstand & Paddock \$10 (16 to 25-year-old) 58); rest-olds 551; Family Enclosure 53, CAR PARK; Members \$1; remaind

HYPERION

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNIVERS; H Coeff— 70 winners from 285 rurners gives a success ratio of 23.7% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of 58.77; J Gooden — 56 winners, 286 runners, 14.5%, -583.76; R Hanson — 51 winners, 605 rurners, 8.45%, -526.75; B Bills — 38 winners, 31s runners, 12.1%, -5122.56.

II LRADING FOCKETTS: Put Eddery — 123 winners, 563 rides, 21.8%, -524.81; L Detori — 83 winners, 563 rides, 14.5%, -5122.75; W R Swinburn — 55 winners, 338 rides, 14.3%, -522.87; W Corners — 56 winners, 496 rides, 11.1%, -577.99.

BLINKERSD FIRST TIME Bleation Led (vigored) (3.05); Dark Truffe, Silvertia (3.40); Ab Wilst planners. Sinter Act Visioners! (3.40)

Air Wing (visored), Blutur Act (vinored) (4.16). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BAYE. None.

LONG-DISTANCE SURNESS: Fine Times (3.05) has been sent 200 miles by C Parturet
from Middleium, N Yorks; Aliqua (3.40) & Rotor Man (12.50) sent 200 miles by J Berhell
from Middleium, N Yorks; Our People (1.20), Minin (1.56) & Guelle Storm (3.06) sent

M Vorter Earliegan Pet (3.40) sent 200 miles by ston from Middlehum "N Yorks; Kathryn's Pot (3.40) sent 200 miles b

L2.5(2YO 6f Pennity Value £4,078	-Spool agged
0	BLDOD GRANGE (72) (G 8 Margaraon) & Margarson 9 0	
4	BLNADEK (USA) (72) (FF) (Hamilton Al Multipum) J Duntop 9 0	RH 9
	XXVIIOS (L Elbrud) Barks 8 0	1
066766	MAMAET (USA) (LA) (Godolphin) Seend bin Surcor 9 (
	SUPREME MAINOOR (Night Unaded M Politice 9 0	() tachion 8
60	THE MICENI CHEY (107) Geoffer C Greenwood land Hustonston 90.	I Beid 2
	ZANIOR Diemon A Meltouri 8 His 90.	
0		
	TEST (USA) (M) P Jerison) M Bet 69	
	0 4 036233 00 80	270 6f Pennity Value £4,078 0 BLODD GRANGE (72) (88 Margarou) 6 Margarous 9 0 4 BLANDIM (MA) (72) (99) (Nambin Al Markoum) J Durlop 9 0 100 Library J Barks 8 0 0 BOTOR MAN (249 (Goodprin) Sheed bin Surgar 9 0 00 BOTOR MAN (249 Mis John Line) J Berns 8 0 SUPERINE MARROOM (Nam) transport M Prigness 9 0 10 THE GREEN GREY (M7) (Goodprin) Sheed bin Surgar 90 0 2ANSR (Hambur, Al Markoum) 8 Hits 9 0 1 FREST CHANCE (14) (Markoum) 8 Hits 9 0 1 FREST CHANCE (14) (Markoum) 8 Hits 9 0 1 FREST CHANCE (14) (Markoum) 8 Hits 9 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8

METTING: T-4 Family, 4-1 Standay, 7-1 Zest, Zambir, 8-1 Roter Man, Hardlerincens, 10-1 The Green 1995: Ferhers 2 8 9 T Quant 1-2 (W Janua) 8 ran

Market leader for the Conwival Maiden on his single start to date at the York Ebor meeting EUNDM could manage only fourth lof eight) behind the smart indiscreet after showing distinct signs of greenness and not being too happy on the test ground. There is a great deal better to come from John Dunlop's Dansig out and he can win even though he is reported to be on the burly side. The main threat might come from the debutant Zeelar, trainer by Barry Hills, whose juverales are in cracking form. By Maryo, Zaahe is helf-brother to three winners including the speedy but II-fated Mathry and is reported useful. Kussett will not fall through back of expensions. He was recing for the each time when finishing third behind Boked Alasks in a field of 22 over course and distance a fortness ago. Zeet, a Zizal fity is out of a mare responsible for several winners in North America.

1.20 NGK SPARK PLINGS SOHAM HOUSE STAKES (CLASS C) £7,200 added 270 1m Penalty Value £4,928 14 RIVER USK (17) (BF) IX Aboutem H Dect 8 13.

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

BARRIUM SANDS held off the 5-2 on chance High Roller ione of the favourites for the 1997

Debyl until the dying strates in a Listed event over oddry's trip at Ascot after looking the whiner approaching the furiong pole. Barrium Sands is a good-looking Green Desert cold out of 1994 Oaks hetorie Circus Plume, who has produced many winners. He has landed his two preceding roces, at Unglield (good to soft) and at Sandown (good to firm), and books a cut above these resis. Effect Usik, a full-brother to Grand Citterium and Dente victor Tendby, landed the odds when making his debut at Haydock, He flooped when 7-4 on at Leicester, finishing a nune-length fourth (of five) to Arnel Abadu, but he can follow Barrium Sands home. Our People, after a Newcastia debut third behard Stoweway, made all at Leicester, both reses over this distance, and he should progress further.

Selection: BARRIUM SANDS

1.55 JAMES SEYMOUR STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £17,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £11,366

-8 deciared -BETTING 5-4 Bright Water, 9-2 Proper Blue, 5-1 Cither Fox, 6-1 Balaisia, 7-1 Muticolograd, 8-

1 Second Academy, 13-1 (Chars

2905: Quandary 4 8 9 W Ryan 5-6 (H Cacil) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE BRIGHT WATER, where of his only moe as a two-year-old, flopped when on High Baroque at Newbury in April on his return, Following a six-month lay-off, Henry Cool's Geefeon coll came home an impressive accres from Desert Shot over course and distance two weeks ago and, likely to get better still, looks poised for a follow-up. Califon Fox won for the third time this season when defeating Missile two and a half lengths in the 3R-runner Cambridgeathre and deserves a chance in the higher grade. Made, favourite for the race Carton Fox work at Doncaster before that, finished 10 lengths addit in 12th after running into all sons of trouble. With better luck in numbing, the would have gone close that day and she has a 13th pull with Cilitan Fox. Proper Blaie best Ninea eight lengthe into sixth at Ascot three weeks ago on only his second appearance of the season. He should progress

the south their section good in the flay on 11th worse terms. Bathleides, who is a sister to the top-sess 10-fluring performer Stageantift, wasn't discredited when fifth to Altamura over a mile and a half all Assot and dropping back in distance should not trouble her. Sho won a fixer point makes over a futuring shorter in June, Multicoloured, who made all in a Yarmouth maiden three weeks ago, is another open to improvement. 2.30 GEORGE STUBBS RATED HANDICAP (CLASS A) (Listed) £17,000 added 2m Penalty Value £10,913

9 630051 ZWYCHUM (26) (Avdy) Smith L Montague Haif 3 8 5 10 33212 MOUNT PLEISANT (14) 67H Parce Fatol Sainant P Cole 3 7 12 11 D-2211 FLAMANDS (14) (5) (Saison Al Nobeer) L Curren 3 7 12

— 11 declared —
Assimum weight: Six 75 (510 7st 12b), The forectip weights Orchesto Stall Set 6b, En Universe Six 3b, Pearl Version 7st 3c, Flaments, 7st 11b.
BETTIME: 5-2 Consider, 7-2 Orchestra Stall, 9-2 Jlyunis, 7-1 Flamends, 8-1 Mount Pleasant, 12-1 Purple Splash, En Vacances, 14-1 others.
1996: Dosydan 3 8-1 K Bartey 5-1 flady Hernes! 7 on Forma GUIDE.
ORCHIESTRA STALL, who tailed to last home after tooking dangerous a furiong out in the Casarewaton, can turn enound the form with numer-up En Vacances back at this shorter journey and on 10th more favourable terms. He also finished behind En Vacances when they were second and fourth of 15 to Roberly Forum at Nowbury in May but is 96 bother off here. He were returning after a three-month break when stammed home b, for lendings at

they were second and fourth or Jib to racidly fortum at Newbury in May but it 9th bottor on here, He west returning after a three-month break, when samming home to, five lengths at Newcastle. Both Orchestra Stall and En Vasances con again take core of Jilyush, who was one of the fancations for the Cesanewich but finished 18 lengths 12th after being eased when beaten. Consadin might pose threat pages threats, he needs clerify of disning and goes well for Kieren Fallon, who booted him home at Dorusaster at the end of Jurist and in September and when the four-peer-old was a strong-finishing third in the Epor after failing to obtgom a clean run. Hawmands, showing her appreciation for a mile and confire security. Separators and warm are journ-greated was a surving-strong time in the Expir amor same in obtain a clear nat. Hammands, showing her appreciation for a mile and su gher seconds in her first two starts, both over two furlouge shorter, got home by less than a length from Mount Pleasant here a forthight ago. She will appreciate the activa quarter hale and can confirm superiority on 3th worse terms. Purple Sphash, suppossful in his first two piles this year at Warnick in April and at Haydock the following month, hown't been out pines a close-up Goodwood third to Prusskan Blue 183 days ago but is thely to be he enough with Pat Edderly back in the saudie.

3	3.05	EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 edded 2YO 5F Penalty Value £3,655
1	3416	BAPLIC STORM (25) (D) (K C Rooms (246) M Johnston 9 7
2	213430	SOUS LE REZ (44) (D) (A P Daves) R Guest 9 5 D Griffiths (5) 7
3	000315	ELLENS LAD (5) (D) (Mrs Ciris Hammglant R Harmon 9 3
4	412250	LAST CHANCE (29) (D) (Carrelot Roong) C Allen 8 13
5	554020	PORT TRANS (2) (Gosgow House Four) C Fashurs 8 13
В		BOP1 (K7) (May 1. Regist R Hannon 8 9
7 .	000610	SWIFT (2) (0) IGeneral Sir Geotifey Howlest M Polgase 8 5M Roberts 3
8	010210	MILEULEN LAD (14) (D) (BF) (Serge Totot) P Mooney 7 13

BETTING: 9-4 Gaelic Storm, 7-2 Ellens Lad, 5-1 Pioe Times, Kilculien Lad, 6-1 Sous Le Nez, Swift,

7-1 Last Chance, 10-1 Goyl 1995: Dance Piyer 2 8 3 8 Dayle 15-8 (D Arbuminit) 8 ran

ELLENS LAD returns to the munimum and faster going after a seven-length fifth of 13 behind Yorke George on the soft at Newbury last Saturday and can reproduce winning form. The Polish Patnot colt made most until entening the finel furlong at Newbury and, before The Poison Pation contrained most wrat engaing the treat runting at Newbury and, before that, went, in over the minimum on good to firm at Folkestone. Elems Laid went under a neck and a head behind Cara Bless and Danehib Prince at Sandown (5h on his previous start. He can contium the form with Last Chance, who went off (avourie with Exidery aboard but finished only lifth nearly three lengths adrift. Gaelle Storra won with over his timp at Sandown, with Swift a nere-length several of 1.4 ofter scoring at Catterick. He is unother likely to be hoppier returning to-live after his timpe-end-a-half-length soft of 1.2 behind Amyas over six at York. Good finished a four-length that in Nightingsie Song at Windsor in lote July with Edden to the secretic and has not recent some.

	T#		Mar count miles - 1 - 100 - 111 - 101	
	Ŀ	3.40	NGK SPARK PLUGS FILLIES HANDICAP (CL added 1m 4f Penalty Value £4,013	ASS E) £5,00
	1		ROBSEN CLOVER (28) (D) (The Clockhouse Press Ltd) R Rose 5 9 1.	
	2	0550	CALENDULA (27) (Christopher Sperice) O Mortey 3 9 8	G Cartor :
	3		KRESTAL BREEZE (11) (D) (S Lamb) W May 497	
	4		YOUR MOST WELCOME CLL) MAS JE Lawbord D french Days 5 9	
	5	0-3000	DARK TRUFFLE (6) (Southgate Record) Mrs J Casal 3 9 7	N. Darley 6
	6	306020	TEMPTRESS (17) (D) (A () G Oktory) P Walkyn 3 9 7	Pat Eddery 2
	7		KATHRYN'S PET (20) (Bit Brown' Mrs M Roscky 3 9 6	
1	8		DALWHEREE (10) Non Roong Company J Has 3 9 6	
	9	40033	SELVRETTA (13) (Sc Stephen Hastings) A Stewart 3 9 3	M Roberts 12
	10	112151	BLOW FORUM (13) (D) (Andy J Smoth) L Montague Hall 592	Martin Dever (5)
;	11	0000052	ABSOLUTELYSTURGERS (7) (R J Settmons & partners) Mrs 8 Warred :	9 0N Variey (3) :
	12	160330	PP'S DREAM (143) (D) (P E Ason) M Rigon 5 8 13	A Clark
	13	05-0000	NEEDWOOD EPIC (15) (Needwood Racing Ltd) 6 Margan 3 8 10	5 Sendert 13
	14	004000	EMBER (18) A P King R Phrice 38 7	R Perban
	15	000532	TOTALLY YOURS (14) IN Charmon: M Charmon 383	F Esten
	18	60E402	ALFANZA (9) (Sheich Amm Dahlami) Bethell 3 8 1	
	17	2-00000	BELLATERICA (30) IN H Gardnern H Collegetige 4 8 0	

BETTIME: 5-1 Kristat Breeze, 6-1 Absolutelystimming, 7-1 Attaya comu, 10-1 Rainie Clover, Glow Forum, 12-1 others 1995: Snow Princess 3 9 8 R rizs 7-2 illars Humangtoni 23 mi ing, 7-1 Alfayers, 5-1 Yotally Yours, Your Most Wol-

KRISTAL BREEZE stands her racing well and was challeng up her fourth success of the season corning home by three and a holf length, in a field of 19 at Brighton early last month. She ran below expectations when in the ruck against Voria Premiere in an apprentices' race at York leight days afterwards but non much better when lounth of 19 to Manadata as Portal Control of the Mana refract on her latest start and can come good again today. Glow Forson , who has score five times this term and holds the selection on York running, has gained four of his wart. are weather meetings, including his most recent vectory at Wolverhampton. He still fuller the mein denger, however, with Martin Dwyer claiming the 5tt, Your Most Welcome Institute behind Missal Breeze of Portrafford and is no better off but stayed on strongly to spring a 20-1 purpose at Redgar before that and is no but of it white Totally Youns, number up be hand Lacom Afocz at Cottenck, can ogain go well even if that winner finished unplaced when one of the tavountes at Leocater on Tuesday.

4.15 AVENUE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 1f Penalty Value £4,045

1		BROTTER ROY 69 (F 6 Mas: T Mas: 9 7
2		DANLORA (20) (C.G. Rowes Nicholson) W. Janes 9.7
3	0000000	ARE WING (3) IP H Bets (Holdings) Ltdl III Tomplets 9.6
4		SISTING ACT (3) (Tim Carty) M Carron 96
5	03-2050	COMMENT UP (162) Sector Record Partners J Hills 96
6	401000	CORROL (CAIG (7) (Terry Corross) T Clearers 9 6 in Houseon (3) 12
ř		PEPPERS (7) OM Neimer-Cooker K Burke 9 5
8	10-3006	WHESPERSON DOWN (3) (3F) (N/H Pyrsonor) M Charmon 9 4
9		VOCCOO ROCKET (115) (Rome West) J Grasses 9 1
10		PRODUCT OF CRUSS (ILE) At Salester and Mr. S Salester. D Marts 90 A Eddery (2) 10 Y
11		ALLSTARS ROCKET (13) (D Startous; 1 J Natisfron 8 10
12	101300	PERFETUAL LIGHT (55) (The Four Part Partnership) J Quern 8 10
13	002200	JEAN PRINCE (57) (P D Burrery) Peace 6 10
14		SCHOOL (32) it ? Marchard ? Makes 88
15	563301	LOCH STYLE (137) U 8 Hacks R Holinshead 8 5
16	300654	ONE BY THE EYE (32) (7 Arctory) J Pouton 8 0 7 Floid (5) 18
17	555000	HARMONDEE (24) The Fun Manages Partnering! Pat Methel (* 13 Newton 8
18	45031	SHOULDERCREY (\$2) (Bran A Levy) IV Kur 7 13
19		FUNCTION CONSISTS LEED D Notices 1 12
20	002100	DAUPHIN (22) (Als Rts Brown W Museon 7 10
21	004000	SUBJECT FLAME (30) (Lan Riech) R M Placer 7 10
		_ 21 decimal _

Advance medical process of the foundation of the state of

WHISPERSHOOD DAWN, equal market leader when a two-length stath of 19 behind power Game at Leicester on Tuesday after a twoly start and being denied a clear run pio furlongs out, looks worth another chance. Mick Channoms tilly wee returning after more than a two-moreh tay-off when unpraced at Salisbury before that and she should improve, Lightly roccid Dawlora, besten six lengths by Don Boso at Certenck and a creditable high of 14 behind Master Beveled at Wennick, can go ned in this, her first handiagh. Might of Glass structure in an 18-turner mastern handicap at Vermough before his unplaced Leicester han beform at an 1.6-runner manden namidrap at Yarmouth before his unplaced Lecester has be-hind Prosent Situation and could figure. Desphin, winner of an armateurs' hondicap at Hay-dock three races ago, and Funky, who trashed in the ruck against Desert Zone at Lecester on Monday but ran Diamond Crown to a head on a field of 20 at Newcastle before that, can

Selection: WHISPERING DAWN

RESULTS NOTTINGHAM

1.00: 1. CRACLEVAR ID Hamborn 3.1 (due; 2. Sharp Return 16-1: 3. Balladdolla Ballan 6-1, 13 han, 3-1 (due) Press Parseum 5-2 (d Fare nov. Meastrained Total: 14-50, 15-20, 15-00, 13-40 (Dr. 15-6-5) CSF, 45-1, 15, Inabel: 4276-50 (Dr. 1438-00) NP

55.15. Indext £276.50 The £1.25 Of NP Mymdon, Robert for Mymdon was selected in the most way selected not insert notes. Rule 4. Explore to bourg part only, deduction 10p in the pound.

1.30: 1. ASTRAC in Falori 5-1. 2. Top Barriers 5-1; 3. Montonide 13-2. 8 ran.

10-11 for Early Option (4th), 3. bd. (Mrs. Gr. Pelleyon, Whitcombol. Total £19.0, £2.00; £2.40, £1.60, £7.55.04

2.00: 1. RESTLESS SPRRT (I Wenner 6-1. 2. Uran Major 8-1; 3. Barriers 11-1. 8 pan. 13-6 for Lat-V-lay 14th), 2.1. (M. Hoffeder, Medicham), Total £5.90, £1.80, £2.30, £1.70, £5.15.04

2.30: L. SWEETNESS HERSELF (A) BATE: \$2 for 2. Siege PerBous 10-1; 3. Peradise Navy 16-1; 4. Compose Pointer 16-1. 17 fan. 11., 5th-1d; (M R)30, Newmorker, Tobe: 53.60; £1.50, £3.70, £2.20, £5.70, £5. E5.82.0 CSF; £34.60, horast £368.17 fre: £261.00. NR: Angesey Sed Wes. 3.00: 1. DESSRIT HORIZON 0, Definol 9-4 for 2. Jensty lack 100-30; 3. Story 33-1.

g-far, 2. Journey Jack 100-30; 3, Slour, 33-1. 13 ran, 9-4 g-far Eshipal (5th), 1, 4, i) Gos-2.11.0. NR: Charlode's Dancer 3.30: 1. SCENORUS if Lynch 8-1: 2. Agent 10-1: 3. Perus 100-30 In: 4. Belzso 14-1. 17 ran. 3%, nk., R Nolinchedd, Upper Long-

doni, Tota: £8.50; £2.20, £2.20, £1.90, £2.20, 0F, £49.30, CSF; £85.29, Incast £301.97. The: £113.70. NR: Rathley limps Jackpot: Not won; £6,238.14 carned foreard to Newmarket today.
Placepot: £985.50. Quedpot: £36,00.
Place 6: £493.26. Place 5: £210 12

SEDGEFIELD 1.10: 1 FLY TO THE END IL Wyer 10-1

1.10: 2. FLY TO THE END it Wyer 10-1. 2. Cover Gif 5-4 lot; 3. Catton Lady 33-1. 10 ran, 3, 1%, if Quern, Maltani, Tote: £11.10; £2.00, £1.20, £5.20, £6. £7.00 CSF. £21.86, Incost: £373-22. Ino £78.50, 1.40: 1. FLAMING HOPE I Berteri 33-1; 2. Administic 11-8 lot; 3. Golf Land 3-1, 6 ran, 7, 2, likin, Nidoe, Newscate-toon Incording 12-20; £10.27, £100, £1.50 E7 £39.10 CSF: £79.53. Ino £57.40 2.10: 1. IROODOS it Surper 9-4-2. Ballindoo 2-1 n-lot; 3. Hudinon Bay Trader Ballindoo 2-1 p.1or, 3. Nutinon Bay Trader 11-1, 5 ran. 2-1 g.1or Crofton Lake, 470-5, 15 iMrs. A. Serboank, Rothmond. Toeth 53.20; £1-60, £1.10. DF £3-40. CSF £7-67

2.40: 2. TREBUNE (M. Foster) 20: 1: 2. Twin Falls: 7:2 pl.fav; 3. Communder Gles: 7:2 pl.fav; 7 ran. 4; h.; pc. Therriton, Middlehami Totale: 125-90; 16: Adv., 27: 20. DF 1: 132: 30. CSF 182: 92. 3.10: 1. BRZING DAWN (B. Storey) 9: 2: 2.10: 1. BRZING DAWN (B. Storey) 9: 2: 6-5 tav. 2. La Denstan 4-1. 3. Kerenare Rive er 16-J. 10 ran. J., 18. (Mrs M Rence). Salitumi. Tota: £1.40. £1.10, £1.40. £3.40 PF. £4.20. CSF. £6.15 Inc £40.90 4.10: 2. BRIGHTER SHADE IC McCompact 2: 2. Blood Brother 3-1, 3. Gezanell 10-11

tav. 6 mm. 7, 2%, ittrs til Reveres, Saltburn Tota: £3,30: £2,80, £1,90, PF: £4,30, CSF £13 87, NR: Arthroam Placepot: £739 30, Quadpot: £82 64 Place 6: £104.50, Place 5: £87.16 STRATFORD

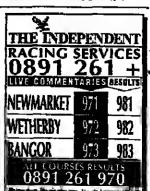
1.20: 1. CAROLES GRUSADER (D FOTO-5-1, 2. Flying Gammor 8-13 Ct.; 3. Gener-dal Mondater 13-2, 11 sec. 52-54, 16. (D Go-dolin), Tobia: 27-50, 11.50, 21.74, 21.75 DF: 22.80 CSF: 27.84, 160, 12.74 LSC, 1. SEVERN GALE: 40 PACCO: 9-2 LSC, 1. SEVERN GALE: 40 PACCO

20 1 12 run 19, E. ip Nichoku Totel 17 00 £1 60, £1 70, £4 30, DF £3.00 CSF £21.25, Inc. £34.40, 2.20: 1 CALLISOE BAY II Otherie! 4 7 tay 2. Southempton 2-1; 3. Thumbs Up 6-1. 3 ran. 2, 26-10 Sherwood: Total: £2-30 DF £1-50, CSF: £2.07

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Goss short on trappings but long on dedication

and there will be no family pre-sent to hid farewell to Pete Goss at Les Sables d'Olonne in France on Sunday when he starts a single-handed, non-stop round-the world yacht race.

His 50-foot vacht Agua Quorum. sunny yellow in colour, is among the poor relations when compared with some of the lavishly funded French campaigns. But this does not deter the man from Cornwall.

Last week Goss had a holiday with wife, Tracey, sons Alex, 7, and Eliot, 2, and daughter Olivia 5. "It was great, the inst time off in a ...ng time," he and enormously experienced said. "But they have now gooe Freoch a run for their mooey. birst time off in a . . ing time," he

I am now focusing on the race."
The race is the third Vendée Globe and the holiday was taken in the south Brittany countryside around Les Sahles d'Olonne, where the 16 compentors are lined up. Fifteen of the boats are 60-footers, with

Budget was the main reason for building something smaller hut, as befits the fighting spirit of Goss, adversity is shrugged aside and eveo turned into an advantage. The design by Adrian Thompson is, he believes, still capable of giving the hi-tech

just Goss in a shorter boat.

The theory runs that be-cause the boat is shorter and huilt lighter, it takes less sail to handle and power it. This, com-bined with a "swinging" keel to right the boat, no reliance on water ballast and a combination of twin rudders and dagger boards, should boost the yacht's

The French are equally convinced that, except in surfing conditions, their longer boats will always have a speed edge despite being heavier and more technically vulnerable.

Goss disagrees. The 34-yearold ex-Marine has kept largely to himself, not least because he Stuart Alexander in Les Sables d'Olonne boat". "Til just get out there and at the beginning of an epic voyage

support that his competitors have had at their disposal. Even his publicity effort has had to be curtailed as the cash ran out.

But Goss has had family support in the shape of a mother and father who individually assembled all the meals he would need for 120 days - the singlehanded around-the-world record is 109 days, set by Titouan Lamazou in 1989/90 - and then trotted along to the local butcher to use his vacuum packer. The overdraft has been re-

minute injection of £25,000 by 3M. "That stopped me from go-ing bust." he admitted: Most people would be pretty frantic at the thought. Again, he manages to sound relaxed, as if everyone with a wife, three children, a mortgage and no income would do and say the

But Goss is not the same. His commitment to the round-theworld solo race is unquestioned. and he likes oothing more than to steer the cooversation back duced to £85,000 with the lastaround to his "brilliant little

work as hard as I can," he said. There is no thought of doubt-

It is not as though he has not been round the world before. In 1992 he was skipper of one of the British Steel boats so he knows the routine from that, although this time the race is tougher, the risks greater, and the technical skills required at a higher level.

Goss sees the race not just as a battle between himself and the worst that the Southern Ocean gales, ice and storms can throw at him, bot as a war which has many battles.

No one knows what fate will

the final preparations in what is, for a 50-footer; remarkably cramped living space. "Some will have good races, some bad; there will be damage and injuries. Some will finish, some

It is that determination to finish that is uppermost in his mind. The possible dangers lurking ahead do not worry him. "I am not afraid but I have great respect for what has to be done. I see this project as an ap-prenticeship and the springboard to go on and do other

Tony Bullimore, whose 60foot Global Challenger is the



Ranger: Nust sol

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second British boat in the Vendée Globe, was yesterday making last-ditch efforts to rescue a sponsorship deal with Exide which he thought had been agreed. Bullimore will start the race regardless.

Manchester taking Wembley to the wire

Mike Rowbottom on the fight for the site of the new National Stadium

Manchester came out fighting vesterday as it submitted its final proposals for building the National Stadium.

Despite last week's endorsement of the rival Wembley bid by the football, athletics and rugby league authorities, Manchester which was awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games - maintained it was the best option for the country at large. "They think it's all over," reads the latest Manchester slogan. "It's not yet.

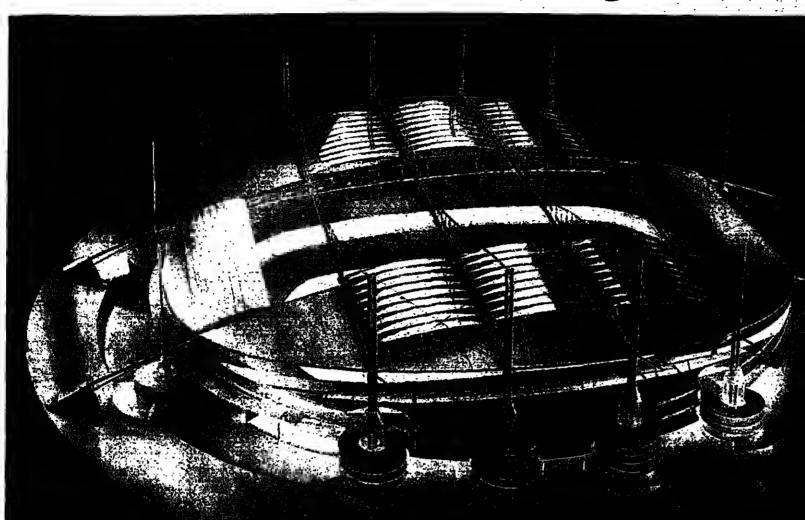
The city, which failed in bids for the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. has modified its original stadium design, adding a retractable roof and moveable seats to an allseater 80,000 edifice it hopes will be the centrepiece of the proposed National Academy of Sport. Yesterday was the deadline for bids to host the Academy and Manchester is among the two dozen or so contenders who also include Birmingham, Bath, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and the London boroughs of Redbridge and Greenwich.

A spokeswoman for the newly formed United Kingdom Sports Council, which will decide oo the location of the Academy, denied yesterday that the decision would necessarily be linked with the destination of the National Stadium.

Launching Manchester's latest proposals, Graham Stringer the councillor who spearheaded the city's successful bid for the 2002 Commonwealth Games - said: "The stadium that will be at the focus of the world's attention in 2002 must be the best in the country - it's

unthinkable that It isn't. "And remember, the national stadium in Manchester will not he profit-governed. Any monies generated will he ploughed back into sport, unlike Wembley, which is a Plc."

Lee Shostok, a New York-



An artist's impression of the proposed 80,000-seat complex, complete with retractable roof and moveable seats which Manchester hopes will become the next National Stadium

Manchester's was a better op-tion than Wembley in all the relevant criteria, from the use of lottery money - around £122m is estimated to he required from the Sports Council through to stadium design.

The former Conservative minister Sir David Trippier said: "Wemhley's bid may have been backed by football, rugby and based planner, insisted that athletics chiefs, but I wonder if and Sydney with regard to the

they took the view of their members into account. The most famous football and rugby league clubs in the world are in this region and it also has the largest number of athletic clubs."

Trippier also contested Loncan succeed in attracting major sporting eveots. He added: North-west spend 45 per cent Look at the examples of Atlanta more on watching sport than

Olympics. Manchester has already shown that it can attract events like the World Cycling Championships, the World Table Teunis Championships and the Commonwealth Games."

Adrian Moorhouse, the forpion, added: "Households in the more on watching sport than

The Sports Council plans to make its final decision in December, "At the mament the competition we are in is for the National Stadium," said Penny Boothman of the City council.

We are not at the stage of say-

doo't get the decision'."

tional Lottery funds. The six nominated representatives in-clude the TV mogul Greg

Up to £100m of National Lottery money is also available for the National Academy of Sport, which will have a central site linked to regional centres.

Bulls still hold all the aces

Jordan's

Richard Taylor

previews the 50th NBA season that tips off today

The game goes hyperactive today, along with a few investment brokers and bank managers, when the jump shooting, shot-blocking, stam-dunking megabuck Na-tional Baskethall Association tips off for its 50th season.

On 1 November 1946 post-war America launched a new sporting league, the Basketball Association of America, when the Toronto Huskies hosted the New York Knickerbockers, Tommy Byrnes stole the game 68-66 for the Knicks with two free throws.

The Knicks are still here, opening the schedule today at Toronto again, but against the sec-ond-year franchise Raptors. Tommy Byrnes would have marvelled at today's NBA: how one of his peers is unhappy with a four-year \$46m (£29m) contract; and how another is earning \$121m (£76m) over seven years but cannot shoot free throws to save his life. It is as well that the game 50 years ago did not depend on Shaquille

O'Neal standing on the line, The incredible salaries are made possible by the insatiable demand for licensed products and merchandise, fed by NBA games beamed to 180 countries by satel-

lite and terrestrial TV stations. The world market in replica kit, balls and other products is worth \$3,000m (£1,900m) to the NBA, with 10 per cent of that from Europe, where they have offices in Geneva, Paris and London, including \$60m (£37.75m) from the UK, Sky TV NBA games and magazine programmes this season.

The demand for NBA products is almost matched by the players' demands for dollars. Indiana's Reggie Miller, an Olympic gold medal winner in the unmer with the USA's "Dream Team", was holding out for a fiveyear deal with the Pacers, but settled for \$9m (£5.7m) a season over four years. "I wanted peo-ple to understand Reggie Miller

is not a greedy person," he said. O'Neal, at 7ft 4in, has cut and run from the Orlando Magic after his 26 points and 12 rebounds per game failed to turn the young franchise into cham-pions. The once all-powerful Los Angeles Lakers are close enough to Hollywood for O'Neal's rap and movie careers, but will examine his credentials to be considered alongside the true greats in the purple and gold, Magic Johnson, Kareem Ab-dul-Jabbar and James Worthy. . If the old Lakers and their legends are the benchmark for O'Neal, the rest of the League still

Femilia loss

have to measure up to the black and red of the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls are still Michael Jordan's team, but to stop Chicago win-ning the title for the fifth time in seven years, opponents will have to beat Dennis Rodman. Alongside Jordan and Scottle Pippen. he gives Chicago the most potent triple threat in the League. The extraordinary Rodman, at

only 6ft 10in arguably the greatest rebounder in NBA history, dyes his hair a different colour each game and is a cross dresser who sees out to shock and thrill on and off the court. He should have won the Most Valuable Player at last season's finals, but it predictably went to Jordan. The Bulls beat Seattle 4-2 and

the challenge from the west may have to come from the Sonics again. The Houston Rockets, Jordan's temporary retirement, signed Charles Barkley from Phoenix but decimated their line-up to get him by allowing Robert Horry, Chucky Brown, Mark Bryant and Sam Cassell to make the return trip to the Suns. Unless, of course, further down the west coast, the challenge comes from the Lakers if "Shaq" starts repaying some of that massive investment.

January. Regional centres will be Accepting bids to run the named by September with a view Wembley, meanwhile, has Academy, the Sports Minister, to having the whole structure up annunced the trustees who will submit the request for Na-Iain Sproat, declared: "This is and running by the year 2000. Shah saves face for England A

Cricket

England A 155-9 v NSW XI

Owais Shah hit a composed 76

to save Eogland A from a disastrous start to their four-day tour match with a New South Wales XI in Tamworth yesterday. Shah, the 18-year-old school-hoy from Middlesex, hit 11 fours as England A slumped to 155 for 9 before a torrential hailstorm halted play after 69.2 overs. Stuart MacGill, rated by

many as the oext best Australian leg-spinner behind Shane Warne, took 4 for 43 while the left-arm spinner Dave Freedman claimed 2 for 21 to leave Shah with the burden of attempting to rescue the tourists.

table contribution, scoring 33 in a 60-run partnership with Shah as the rest of the batsmen failed to deliver against a side that included just three players with

State cricket experience. Back at home, the first job nf the new Sussex captain, Peter Moores, will be to try and persuade the England leg-spinner Ian Salisbury to stay at Hove. Moores, 33, who has replaced the sacked Alan Wells, says he will he speaking to Salisbury, who is believed to be a target of Sucrey, as well as the batsman

Martin Speight and the all-rounder Danny Law. "I will do my best to try and keep them, but it's their decision and they have to stay because They were told his contract has

Yorkshire's Craig White they want to," said Moores, made England's only other no- who juined Sussex in 1985. Several Sussex players were

said to be unhappy with Wells' style of leadership and Moores admitted the club have become "frustrated" because of a lack of success. Wells, 35, sacked after five years in charge, is unlikely in see out the remaining two years of his contract.

Derbyshire have issued a "hands off" warning to clubs interested in their batsman Chris Adams. The 26-year-old had his best season in 1996, scoring 1,742 runs, and was the subject of an approach by Sussex. The Derbyshire chairman, Mike Horton, said: "Sussex asked for

two years to run. Other counties were rumoured to be interested so I sent a fax to all 17, expressing concern about the number of clubs believed to be approaching Chris.

a real step forward for our

The Department of Nation-

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Sports Council will draw up a

shortlist, with the help of spe-

cialist advice, and hope to an-nounce a decision by the end of

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Powell out of Test arena

Rugby League

Daryl Powell has announced his retirement from international rugby league.
The 31-year-old, appointed player-coach of Keighley Cougars before setting off oo

the Great Britain tour, decided to retire after last Friday's second Test against New Zealand. He has established himself as one of the six most-capped players of all time. Powell, who had 28 Test caps before the start of the tour, made his Test de-but in Britain's 8-4 win over France in Perpignan in March 1990, and was in the side that

beat the touring Australians at Wembley later that year. "I know some people think I am lucky to have won all these caps but I have always preferred to do my talking ont on the pitch," he said.

Tour courses under scrutiny

The PGA European Tour is cartying out a review of all its venues in the wake of last month's uproar at the British Masters. The 1997 tournament schedule was released yesterday, but the complete list of cours-

es has still to be announced.
The British Masters at Collingtree Park, Northampton - the first qualifying event for next September's Ryder Cup – was played on greens affected by annual meadow grass decline, and prompted a massive

outcry from the players. Seve Ballesteros called for changes in the way the Tour is run and two weeks later he, Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo were among 50 players who met in Paris behind closed doors to air their grievances and discuss the way forward. Ken Schoffeld, the European

Tour director, having apolo-gised for the state of the greens, has tried to pot together the strongest schedule he can for next season. He has confirmed that the One 2 One British Masters will be moved away from the Tour-owned Collingtree. "We are investigating the

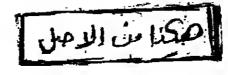
Collingtree affair and have taken the view the course should. be suspended," Schofield said. "The disintegration of the greens there fractured the confidence of the players and the administration. What we have set nut to do since is rebuild confidence. We have a very big job to do. Our biggest concern is the venues, and I am aware of all the complaints on Tour."

The Tour's deputy executive director, George O'Grady, added: "The Tour is the players, and we intend to communicate with them more. We must build the morale of everyone who works for the tour."

1997 EURICIPEAN TOUR SCHEDILE (Versions to be anticomocal account victors indicated): January 22-25 Johnson Walter Cases (1) foor latent, Quadralend, Agal. 30-2 Feb Heisstein Casta (The Vinne, Port). Aud. Febbasery: 6-9 South African Chen. 13-45 Derivation Data (Den Stan Cly, S4, 20-22 Afric Double). South African Chen. 13-45 Derivation Data (Den Stan Che, Dunia). March 6-9 Morotcom Open. 13-45 Portuguese Open. 20-23 Turseage Meeters. 27-30 Microbian Identification and Ocea. Agest 3-4 to be amounted, 10-23 Us MS-1978 Valuary. 6-000pt. 37-40 Microbian Identification Chen. 25-10 Portuguese Open. 20-25 Turseage Meeters. 27-30 Microbian Indian Chen. 5-10 Portuguese Open. 20-25 Turseage Meeters. 27-30 Microbian Indian Chen. 5-10 Portuguese Open. 20-25 Turseage Meeters. 27-30 Microbian Indian Chen. 5-10 Portuguese Open. 3-12 Portuguese Open. 3-12 Portuguese Open. 3-12 Portuguese Open. 3-12 Portuguese Open. 3-13 Portuguese Open. 3-13 Portuguese Open. 3-14 Open. 25-27 Microbian Indian Chen. 20-24-25 Valua German Open. 26-28 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-28 Valua German Open. 26-29 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-29 Valua German Open. 26-29 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-29 Valua German Open. 26-29 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-29 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-29 Portuguest Portuguese Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-20 Valua German Open. 26-20 Valua Ope



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Becker given a lift from Ferreira's loss Wayne Ferreira became the

10th seed to go out of the Paris Open when he lost 6-2, 6-4 to Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson in the third round yesterday. The eighth-seeded South African lasted just 59 minutes on centre court against the player who who beat the ninth

Becker, beaten by Spain's Carlos Moya in the second round on Wedoesday, is assured of his: place io the eight-man ATP Tour World Championship in Hanover oext month, where he will defend the title.

Chang, Goran Ivanisevic, Yevgewhich starts on 19 November. Stefan Edberg rallied to beat

hier 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. The Swede, ranked 17th in the world but unseeded in the tournament, lost the first set but recovered, taking 10 of the last 13 games. Monica Seles showed no ill-

effects from a sore shoulder or a month's lay-off as she beat Elena Likhoviseva 6-2, 6-1 in 49 minutes in the second round of the Ameritech Cup in Chicago. The world joint No 1 will put off surgery to repair a tear in her shoulder, which would keep her out of the game for at least 12 weeks, for as long as possible. who felt his young side lacked tional Sarah Kelleher.

Rangers must solve conundrum

Football

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, was yesterday again wrestling with the conundrum of domestic dominance and

European embarrassment.

After Wednesday's 1-0 home defeat against Ajax, his team are in serious danger of taking the wooden spoon in the Champions' League after four succes-sive defeats.

It is the worst record of all 16 clubs in the élite, but Smith will send out a side desperate to win points against Grasshopper Zurich at Ibrox on 20 November and at Auxerre on 4 December with £500,000 on offer

"I feel we deserved something from the two home perfor-mances against Auxerre and Ajax but we could have no complaints about the away defeats in Zurich and Amsterdam."

Many observers believe Smith must now conduct a massive overhaul of his squad but with the club chasing Celtic's cherished nine-in-a-row Scottish championship record that is unrealistic.

"There may come the time when we have to make fairly hig changes hnt that is always difficult here when you have to win the championship," said Smith.
"It is difficult to plan for change when you have to be successful oo the home froot all the time."

He is hopeful that injured players such as Andy Goram, Stuart McCall and Alan McLaren will be back in action within a matter of weeks as Rangers prepare for a heavy programme after the break for Scotland's World Cup game

Smith and Brain Laudrup, captain for the night, were en-couraged by the performances of the youngsters Scott Wilson and Greg Shields.

"They did very well," Laudrup said. "It is incredible in Scott's case in particular to play for Rangers for the first time and to do so well. Rangers can only be very record of these can only be very proud of these

two boys."

Smith said: "They are always saying that they don't often get an opportunity of first-team football which is true, they don't.
"It was encouraging to see their performances and 1 was

delighted in the manner to which they handled the game, it showed they have a good temperament."

Wilson was pitched in for his first match at the age of 19 against Ajax and oow he would love to stake a claim for a new contract with his deal expiring in six months. "I still find it scary that I actually played against Ajax for Rangers," said the Ed-inburgh-born Wilsoo."I was brought up as a Rangers fan so it was fantastic to get in the side."



Brian Laudrup, the Rangers captain, is challenged by Ajax's Richard Witschge at Ibrox on Wednesday night

Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

Gascoigne decision rests with Hoddle

Hoddle looks set to a public outcry today tain Paul Gascoigne in his and squad for the World trip to Georgia next week. Women's groups have led the demands for the troubled langers player to be axed for his blieged beating of his wife, Sh-

r eryl, stories he has not denied. The England coach held further discussions with Football Association chairman, Keith Wiseman, vesterday about how to handle the controversy. However, though coocerned with their public image, the FA is prepared to leave the final decision to Hoddle, especially so early in his reign.

All the signs are that be will not cast Gascoigne into purga-tory. In fact, as well as standing by his man, he could bring back two other foothalling reprobates, Ian Wright and Tony Adams, for the difficult trip in place of the injured Gary Pallister and Alan Shearer.

It is a difficult squad for Hoddle, with Stuart Pearce struggling with injury too. Wright attracts almost as much cootroversy as Gascoigne, hut must have thought he had seen the last of an England shirt with his 20th cap against Romania at Wemhley in October 1994.

But he is to excellent form,

with 12 goals in his last 12 games and Hoddle looks set to recall him, though Liverpool's Robbie Fowler — five goals in his last four outings — is more likely to play a part in Georgia. Pearce has missed the last two

Nottingham Forest games with a back problem which gives Hoddle real problems. Gracme Le Saux is at last back to action for Blockburg and Phil Neidl is planned and designation is plannesser. United, but both are desperately short of match practice. Coven-

try's John Salako might provide the surprise left-sided cover. The Georgian government has abandoned plans to put their

clocks back in line with the rest of Europe. The decision, made oo economic grounds to give Georgia's industries as much daylight as possible and make savings on energy costs, means that Glenn Hoddle's team now face a five-hour time difference for the qualifier on 9 November instead of the expected four.

However, England have held talks with the Georgian FA and come to a new agreement over kick-off times which means that no one will notice the difference back home. The senior game, due to start at 40m Georgian time, has now been put back to 5pm, thus retaining the nooo Loodoo-time start.

Germany ·

The latest threat to football as we know it comes not from the United States but from Germany - where two televisioo stations have called for tele-vised matches to be divided into thirds or even quarters to allow for more advertising.

Despite impe audience ratings, the two private Channels, faul and RIII say they cannot make a profit because of the fees they pay for broadcasting rights. The only way of fivillaging televased football is to the profit they pay for an audiothurk.

me duector said a 1714 Roger's counterpart at R11. Heliuin Thoma, suggested that coaches should be able to call two time-outs of two or three minutes in each half, which nousense of the century. could be used to show commercials - and claimed the support of Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, world football's governing body.

This has been denied by Blatter, who said: "Splitting the game into thirds or quarters is . definitely not going to happen. There are also going to be no time outs in the game in the foresecable future. He admitted that he had raised the concept of time outs last year, in order to help coaches have more influence on the game. but "tests in Sweden and Brazil. have shown that the flow of the game suffers."

AROUND THE WORLD

spoken in his opposition, describing the ideas as "as useful as a hole in the head" and "the

h has been a good week for Fenerbahce's Nigerian de-fender, Uche Okechukwa The Olympic gold medallist earned a bonus of \$10,500 (£,7000) for playing his part in Wednesday's historic defeat of Manchester United in the Champions' League, to add to the \$10,000 he won last Sunday for scoring in a Turkish League game against Trabzonspor - the 2.000th goal in Fenerbance's history, hence the bonus. Okechukwu and his Niger ian club-mate, Augustine "Jay

Jay" Okocha, are planning to become Timbish chizens, adopt-ing the names Abdul-kerim Rahim Uche and Muhammed Yavuz Okocha respectively.

Already popular in Istanbul,
the Nigerians and their team-

mates are now national heroes after the events of Old Trafford, "Your victory has overwhelmed the whole nation with joy. Ruckey's Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller, in a message to the Fenerbahes charition, Ali Sen. Some fans took the cele-

brations too far, however. A 25-year-old man firing a gun. IV stations proposals. Franz. randomly out of his window in Beckenbauer, the president of "published shot a woman in the Bayern Munich, was more out- stomach and her 10-month-old baby in the feet. Both victims were sitting oo their balcony In a separate incident, an 18 year-old man standing oo his flat's balcony was shot in the neck by a stray bullet.

Peru

A referce's life in South Amer ica is rarely easy. The official in charge of last Sunday's 1-1 draw between two Lima clubs Universitario and Sporting Cristal, was attacked by both players and directors from Universitatio at the end of the game. The three players involved were given suspensions yesterday - but the longest ban was only 120 days.

Rupert Metcalf

Everyone thought it was all over... virtually deserted stadium

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

There was a nasty shock for the players of Wimey Town as they

celebrated in the social club at the Hand stadium, Clevedon, on Tuesday after they had achieved what they thought was an awaygoals victory over the home side More than half an hour after the referee had signalled the end of extra time, both teams were summoned back on to the pitch to take part in a penalty shoot-Clevedon Town had drawn

1-1 at Wimey in the first leg of the first-round tie and the score was the same after 90 minutes after Tuesday's second leg in Somerset. Each team scored a goal in extra time, leaving the aggregate score tied at 3-3 and both sides - plus the officials believing that Witoey were the victors, having scored more goals away from home.

Back in the changing rooms, however, the referee, Martin Perry, checked the competition rules again and realised that the away-goals rule applied only after 90 minutes, and not after extra time. So. at 10.30mm. having changed back into their dirty kit, the two teams - in a

contested a penalty shoot-out. which Witney woo 4-2. "There was a lot of confusion after the game," Perry said, "and the secretaries of both clubs seemed unaware of the rules." Despite their eventual victo-

ry. Witoev were still not happy. Brian Constable, their chairman, said: "Mr Perry should not in a Dr Martens League Cup tie . - be allowed to referee again. This kind of thing only happens in vil-lage football - not in a semi-professional league." The latest managerial casu-

alty in the GM Vauxhall Conference is Gary Johnson, the former Cambridge United manager, who has parted company with Kettering Town. The club captain, Steve Berry, takes over m a caretaker capacity. Whitby. Consett, Wisbech

and Newcastle Town are all looking forward to taking part in the first round of the FA Cup but before then they must turn their attention to the FA Carlsberg Vase, which stages its firstround ties 10morrow. Whithy entertain Crook and Newcastle Town are at home to Lye, while Wisbech go to Royston and Consett travel to Blackpool Rovers. Godalming & Guildford have the most glamorous journey - to Jersey to take on First Tower United.

North's test of Epruc's resolve

Rugby Union

North selectors are to test the resolve of the English Profes-sional Rugby Union Clubs in their continuing battle with the Rughy Football Union.

Eprue officials have told the RFU that players from Courage League One and Two clubs will not be made available for Divisional representative sides in matches against touring teams. But in the North's 38strong squad named yesterday, all but two players are from clubs represented by Epruc. The exceptions are the former Wigan and Halifax rugby league winger Mark Preston, now with Fylde, and Mike Shelley, the

Leeds prop.

The squad we have in ited is obviously provisional since we are not sure exactly how players and clubs will respond," said the chairman of North selectors. John Spencer, the former England centre.

Sale, who provide 13 players. and Second Division Waketield have made it clear they will not stand in the way of their plac-ers if they wish to play for the North, and First Division Orrell are likely to follow suit,

Bristol's British Lions scrumhalf Robert Jones is in hospital undergoing treatment on a back injury that threatens to wreck his season. The former Wales captain has been receiving trac-tion therapy for a collapsed disc, but could still face surgery - and a six-month lay-off - if doctors are not satisfied. Jones, 30, signed a two-year, £1(N),(NN) contract during the summer.

Jack Rowell, the England coach, showed no inclination to disrupt his squad's preparations for next month's Test against Italy in naming a virtually unchanged training group for next Wednesday's training

The squad is iccreased to 47 by the addition of Wasps' uncapped loose forward Peter Scriveoer, who was at the earlier sessions but missed the most recent one through injury.

The London Irish ceotre Rob Henderson and Ballymena wing James Topping will win their first Ireland caps when they take -the field against Western Samoa at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 12 November.

Topping, who normally plays his club rugby on the right wing, has been selected on the left for the first rugby union match under floodlights in Ireland. Henderson comes in after his try-scoring appearance for an Ireland XV against the Barbarians at the end of last season. The Saracens No 8 Paddy Johns is recalled to the side in-

Costello is only a replacement for Ireland A, who play the Junior Springboks at Donnybrook nior Springboks at Donnybruok in Dublin on the same day.

RELAND to play Western Samos at Lurationne Road, November 12; 2 Mason (R.) mond; R Walloos (Soncord). R Henderson Inches Indian Insth., J Bell Interhampton!, J Topping (Ballymena); 0 Hamphrays (London Insh.), J Bell Interhampton!, J Nopplewed I Newcastel, A Clarke (Northampton). P Walloos I Sancord). G Palcher Lordon Insh., J Devidson (London Insh.), D Cartery (Bresol), D Neibrio (Natione); P Johns (Sancord), D Neibrio (Natione); P Burke (Bristol), A Michael (Natione); P Burke (Bristol), A Michael (Garyone); M Germy (Shamon), H Hardey (Lloseley); M Germy (Shamon), H Hardey (Lloseley); M McDermott (Lansdown).

stead of Victor Costello.

seed, Andre Agassi. The result means that Boris

Pete Sampras, Michael ny Kafelnikov and Thomas Muster have already gained a spot for the end of year event

the Dutch qualifier Fernon Wi-

Devenport out on his own

Paul Devenport, of New Zealand, hit an eight-under-par 63 to eclipse big names such as Colin Montgomerie and Ernic Els as he claimed the firstround lead in the Alfred Dunhill Masters in Hong Kong vesterday. Devenport, 30, shot eight

hirdies to lead by one shot from South Korea's Kang Wook-Soon in the event cosanctioned by the Australasian and Asian PGA Tours. Devenport splits his tourna-

ment schedule between Australia and Canada hut has yet to win an event, while Kang has

standings. Montgomenic, the Scot who took the European Tour title for the fourth con secutive year in Valderrama last week, recovered from an opening double-bogey for a two-under-par 69 while Els. the triple World Matchplay

champion, shot 71. "I did not make any mistakes today - it was a good solid round and I'm delighted with it," said Devenport, whose 63 was one off the course record held by

triumphed twice this year to lead the Asian Order of Merit failed to find his rhythm. "I just

Olton, promoted this season, are three points clear of Wimbledon at the top of the First Division but have a tough away game at Chelmsford. They have some doubts about the fitness of former England and Great Britain captain Barbara Ham-

blev for the visit. Ólton went down 1-0 to Sutton Canada Life on Thursday and coach Gavin Featherstone,

Montgomerie hlamed jet-lag

and the stifling heat for his stuttering round while Els, who arrived yesterday after his sixth in the rain-delayed US Tour Championship, said that he

Olton banking on Hambley

Olten and Old Loughtonians are the only two teams with maximum points as the Women's National League resumes tomorrow after a twoweek break, writes Bill Colwill.

direction without the experienced Hambley, will be hoping

for a swift recovery to her hamstring trouble. Old Loughtonians, in their first seasoo in the National League, have made an excellent start - two points ahead of. Loughborough Students after just four games. The team is, like Ohon's, built on experience and youth.

The Premier leaders Slough travel to Carrieck to play Sutton, still war but the injured Anna Bennett and Lucy Cope. In addition and Eyre and Lisa Copeland wings missing for this game and they are still without the still news from their Irish interna-

The Philadelphia Philies have appointed Tany Francona, the Detroit Tigers' third base coach, their new manager

Tommy Momson, the HIV-infected heavyweight, will now face Marcus Rhode when he returns to the ring in Tolyo this weekend. Rhode takes over from Anthony Cooks, who is on his way back to Oldahoma where he is wanted by law enforcement authorities. The 24year-old Rhoda, who has won 15 of his 16 contests, all by knock-out, is ex-pected to provide a much stemer test.

Paul Mariner, the former England strik-er, flew to America yesterday to start a new job as football coach at the Uni-versity of Arizona. Mariner had, been coaching Preston's strikers for two years and was BBC Radio Lancashire's main match summeriser for three

The Birmingham defender Gary Poole has pulled out of a planned £250,000 move to Chariton after feiling to agree personal terms. Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's 1994

Carlos Alberto Parreira, Brazil's 1994
World Cup winning coach, has been sacked by São Paulo following a run of 10 games without a win in the Brazil-tan League.

SCOTLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (European Champlomehle v Swede, Tenmadice Park, Dundee, Seburday 9 Nevestiber, 3.0): Bosar (Rath), Bods (Hibs), Germalina (West Brom), Gillies (St. Mirren), Gay (Leota), Hamilton (Dundee), Herper (Hiss), Japa (Winbedon), McClustiany (St. Johnston), McCullica (Motherwell), McKentsia (Hearts), Richie (Hearts), Rowson (Alprdeen), Teele (Cyclonania), Young (Abordeen), Teele (Cyclonania), Young (Abordeen), Settlement (Brazilles (Fix Gotherburg), Brichard (Bragot), Lucia (Fix Gotherburg), Befinderd (Bragot), Lucia (Fix Gotherburg), Metowe (Orgyto), R Nilsanon Holomphong), Sundgred (Mix Stochnolm), Medicalderic Alexanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Met (West Scotscholm), Schusza (Monchengladbach), Leesson (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Bernarder (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Bellander (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Bellander (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix Gotherburg), Bellander (Fix Gotherburg), Kanderson (Fix

WORLD CUP CONCACAF semi-final round Group Three (Medico City): Medico 5 (Gelin-do 20, pen 28, Zague 48, Hatmosito 72, Walker og 31) St Vincent 1 (Veloa 88). US OPEN CUP Finet: Washington DC Utd 3 Rochester Raging Rhinos O (at JFK Stadium, Weelington DC).

SPORTING DIGEST

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cop Chemplons' Langue Group A: CC Zurich 3 Austre 1; Rangers O Ags. 1, Group B: Boussis Dormund 1 Alestro Medick 2; Wickes Lotz 2 Steeue Bucharest 0, Group C: Juvertus 5 Rojid Vienris D: Man Und 0 Fenemehre 1, Group D: Men 1 Mr O Fenemehre 1, Group D: West 1 Steen 1; Chemplon B: O. Nestionwide Football League First Division: Norsech 1 Sheff Urd 1; QPR O Ipsarch 1; Swandon 2 West Brom 3; Wedverbumpton O Huddersheld O. Second Division: Millett 2 Backpool 1: R7 Cup Fourth qualifying round replays Moregarbe 2 Lancaster 2. Dr Hartman Langue Cap First Tourd second leg 98 dock 2 Chelmsford 1 (agg: 3-1): Salpbury 3 Barriey 0 (agg: 6-2): Stempourre 1 Graesterd 2 (agg: 4-4, Stingtoure eth on amy goots); Solhull Borough 1 Paget Rengers 2 (agg: 3-5): VS Rugby 1. Alterstone 4 (agg: 3-6, United Langue First Division: Farstey 1 Worldy Bay 1. Chellenge Cup a second round: Bigh 1 Eriely 2: Wirestond 3 Runcom 1. Seconds: Divect Promior Division: Tearton 1 Barristope O. Northern Counties East Langue Premier Division: Tearton 1 Barristope O. Northern Counties East Langue Premier Division: Bary Longue D. Northern Counties East Langue Premier Division: Bary Langue Premier Di

vision: Brigg 2 Pontsfract 4 riby 1, President's Cop se riby 1. President's Cup second-round reptus Rotamgion Mein 1 Amthorpe Weifarn D. North West Counties Laugue First Division: Rosserdale Und 4 Chaddenon 1. Floodill Treaty first round second leg! Presch 2 Burscough 2 (agg: 4-3). LCI, Pils Northern Laugue Cap Sec-ond round: Prudince O Whithy B. Javascow Wes-ex Lauguet Aproclutions O Weinburne D. Javascow and round: Pruthoe O Whithy 6. Jewson Weseet Languac Annohuchus 0 Whithors 0. Jewson Meaeet Languac Annohuchus 0 Whithors 0. Jewson Beatan 1 League Premiser Divisions Sotama 8 Cacton 0. Uniget Sussan Chusty Langua Pins Diriston Estaboure Town 1. Storetam 7. Nascocks
O Ringmer 1: Whitehawk 1 Porticle 5. Friendly
Octord City O Derby Courry 6. San Life Gold Cap
Semi-disals Genzano 2 Octosides 0. Press & Journal highland Languac Bucko 1 Potentees 4: Elgon 1 Brost 4. Poutities Languac Permise Division
Blackburn Rosers 2 Tranmers Rosers 3. Secend
Obtains Barriany 3 Carticle 2. Third Division:
Sourhorpe 1 Lincoln 2. Aven Insurance Conbination First Officialous West Ham 3 Cartiff 0;
Worbledon 3 Semines 4. Languac Coffest round:
Southernoon 4 Enginon 3. European Initiate-16
Championship Qualifyleg round: Spain 5 England 1.

Britain's Lora Fairclough is strongly placed to overturn a disappointing season after an opening round of 70 in the Spanish Open at La Menga Club yesterday. The Lancashire player is in a chasing group of the just one stroke behind the South Menan lends Chan hind the South African leader, Caryn Louw, following a three under-par 69. LOUM, following a three under-par 69.

ALFRED DINERILL MASTERS (Hong Kong)
Leading fisst-round scovers 63 P Deverport
(NZ). 84 K Wook-scon (S Kon. 65 G Norusis;
LS). 86 A Meeles (US); S Laycock, Nas); 2
Langer (Ger); B Hughes (Aus); P No-scok (S
Kon. 67 H Vv-siu (Ind.); T Ch-hung (Trai); 8
Ruanglat (Thel); S Taylor (US); D Cole (Aus).
88 T Smoy (Ind.); Felic Cases (Phil); M Hor-wood (Aus); L Joon-suk (S Kor); J Rhandhame (Ind); C Sangho IS Kor), Sectional 69 C Mortgometre (Sco). 71. E Es (SA); Seve Ballesteros (Sp).

SPANISH OPEN (La Manga Club) Leading

SPANISH OPEN (La Manga Club) Leading first-round scores (CB or hi urites stated): 69 C Louw (SA). 70 S Gronberg (Swe);

ice hockey MRIL: Hardford 2 NY Islanders 2 (ot); Detroit 5 Montreal 3: Flonda 3 Cheago 2; NY Rangers 6 New Jersey 1: Onawa 2 Los Angeles 2 (ot); Washington 4 Philadelpha 2: Dallas 2 Buf-talo 0; Colorado 5 St Louis 3; Edmonton 4 Phoens 1; Vancouver 3 Anahem 1; San Jose 3 Calgary 1.

Rugby League

Leeds have made their first signing -just two days after new owners took over the club. They have beaten Super League rivats Bradford, Halifax, Warfington and Wigen for the signature of 18-year-old centre Neil Kite from Bar-row Island amateur club.

Reports of a takeover bid for the Super League club Castleford have bed dismissed by their former charman Dawd Poulter, one of the club's major shareholders. Ron Hill, a former Castleford player and director, is fronting a con-sortium of unnamed businessmen sand to be considering making a bid for the club, but Poulter sand their no offer had the best processed.

Oldham Bears have secured the club's financial future after shareholders ap-proved a board request for permission to turn their loans into shares at a special general meeting. The directors will now put another £50,000 into the club and increase personal guarantees at the bank from £100,000 to £200,000, in turn, the bank will increase the club's overdraft from £350,000 to £500,000.

Rugby Union

Record cap-holder David Campese will play his first game on the Wallabes' from to Britain and Ireland against the combined Glasgow-Edimburgh XV at Old Anniestand on Saturday. The 100-times capped Campese is on the right wing for the Australians and will play outside the likely Test centre combination of Daniel Herbert and Pat Howard. David Knox, a survivor of the Walables' last tour of Scotland, is at stand-off and will be partnered by scrum-half George Gregan. Record cap-holder David Campese will UISTRALIA XV (v Giengow-Edin

Atmiestand, Saturdey: J Roft, O Carnose, I Herbert, P Howard, J June: D Ivnos, G Gregan R Herry, M Foley, A Bades, O Gaften, J Welborn, O Manu, M Cornors, O Wilson (cogn), Replace-ments: M Burle, J Wallace, 5 Payre, T Kefu, A Heath, M Caputo. BES ANN A Caputo.

C O'Stee (London Inshi, 8 Wateh (Cork, Corstitution), M McCall (Durgormon), N Woods (London Irsh); K Manes (Carryoners), 8 O'Mears (Cork, Drist); K Planes (Carryoners), 8 O'Mears (Cork, Wood (Marieyums), A McKeen (Lorsdowne), A McKeen (Lorsdowne), A Foley (Shamoon), E Millier (Lescester), 8 Grossier (Gerryoners), Replacements; J Cuminingham (Dutin Unis), E Devoed (Larsdowne), A Matchatt, 19th (Lorsdown), V Contible (London Irsh), 6 Balpin (Lorsdown), V Contible (London Irsh), 6 Balpin (Lorsdown), V Contible (London Irsh), 6 Balpin (Lorsdown), V Contible (Lordon Irsh), 6 Balpin (Lordon Irsh), 6 Nagara (Marie McCall), 6 O'Meancland (2) New, Marie vict Junior Springholes, 25 Nov. Hu vict Junior Springholes, 25 Nov. Hu Argentina 2 Dec. Huddrutheld): Bac leguon (Newcostle), J Bhallada: Bac Bacy (Manadaman) ius 27 Nov. Entesheed: Huddrysteid): Backs: T i, J Makinder (Sele), P

The World Professional Billiards and Sports Council at all major tournaments. A WPBSA spokeswoman said that the main problem the sport had in recent years was with prescribed drugs such as becablockers. Players are now fully aware of what accepted levels are," she added. Snooker could be part of the Olympics in 2004 after all que sports

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football RELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION Kitmarnock v Hibernian (7,45) . ICIS LEAGUE Promier Division: Enhald v Hryondge (7.30). FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Promier Dino Bohemians v Sligo Rovers (7.45). DEFA UNDER-16 CHAMPIONSHIPS: Carch

Republic v Spain (at Chester City FC, 7.30) Rugby League THIRD TEST MATCH: New Zealand & Grout British (at Christchurch, 6.3Gam)

Other sports

Cassie Jackman has moved ahead of Casse Jackman has moved unead or the British champion, Sucarine Homer, in pursuit of the Australians who con-tinue to lead the world printings. The 23-year-old former world jurnor cham-pion from Norwich is rainled third in vesterday's list issued by the Women is International Squash Planers Associa-tion, with Homer dropping back to fourth place, while Sue Wright is fifth and Fional Geoves 10th.

Geoves 10th.
Worken's Workld TOP 20: 1 S Forcer, et dust, 2 M Abrito (Aust, 2 M Abrito), 5 S Wingto (Aust, 6 L Income (Aust, 2 M Abrito), 12 R Macree (Aust, 1 M Abrito), 12 R Macree (Aust, 1 A M Abrito), 12 R Macree (Aust, 1 A M Abrito), 13 R Cooper (Aust, 1 A M Abrito), 12 R Macree (Aust, 1 A M Abrito), 13 R Macree (Aust, 1 A M Abrito), 13 R Macree (A M Abrito), 13 R Macree (A M Abrito), 14 R M Abrito), 15 R M Abrito), 16 R M Abrito), 17 R M Abrito), 17 R M Abrito), 17 R M Abrito), 17 R M Abrito), 18 R M Abr V Cordwell (Aus), 17 P Scarns (AD), 18 Weeks (Aus), 19 I Marsh (AZ), 20 N Up II Basis

PARIS OPEN (France) Second round: Picorda (C. Rep) bi M Ross (Chief 6.3 6.4. Third round: M Gustakson (Seet bit W Ferman (St. 6.2 6.4.) Plantinos (Night in T Mustar (US) 6.4 3.6 7.6; M Rosset (Seet bit P Alman (US) 7.5 3.6 6.4 7.6; S Cores; (Seet bit P More) (See bit P Alman (Sp) 7.5 3.6 6.4 7.6; S Cores; (Seet bit A Bernsotogui (Sp) 6.1 6.4; Y Krietino, (Riss bit M Washington (US) 6.4 6.3. KREMLIN CUP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

(Moscow) Quarter-floats B Parter: (Aut) of E Mouropa (Rus) 6-2 5-7 6-9; C Monres (Spr) br A Studentova (Storati e 3 6-5; B Scheff (Aut) of Y Tatafaca (Ubr) 6-0 6-2; S Appelmans (Bel) bt R Dogoriu (Rom) 6-1 G AMERITECH CUP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Chicago) Second round: M Scies (US) b: E Likhoviseva (Rus) 6-2 6-1; I Sprica (Rom) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-1 6-2.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

£600,000

The amount Scottish punters collected from William Hill folowing Rangers defeat against Ajax. Two of the biggest winning bets of £7,350 and £6,720 were placed in a Glasgow betting office by gamblers taking advantage of odds offering Ajax at 11-10

and Rangers 15-8.

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: 3-0 (5-2)

1-0 (1-0)

. 2-2 (5-4) 1-0 (1-1)

2-0 (3-0)

3-0 (5-0) 1-1 (3-1)

1-1 (4-2)

2-0 (2-0)

Raba ETO Syor 3-0 (5-2)

1990-91 Cun Winners' Cun

Atletico Madrid

Kispest Honved

1rd Torpedo Moscow 0-0 (0-0)

1-1 (1-2)

Eleven days that turned the Reds blue

OCT

OCT

26 OCT

Ferguson fights to win confidence game

The record can intimidate foreign teams but it can be intimidating for myself. I do not want to be the manager who loses it. pen but I hope it is long after I have gone to the great penalty box in the sky and am in peace." Alex Ferguson speaking in September about Manchester United's unbeaten home record in European competition.

Gienn Moore on the way ahead for Manchester United after a bad 10 days

Manchester City fans will have enjoyed it most - Maine Road is where the blue-and-yellow shirts of Fenerbahce will soon be sported - but they are not the biggest domestic beneficiaries of Manchester United's unexpected Champions' League defeat on Wednesday night.

Liverpool, Newcastle, Arsenal and any other side with pretensions to United's Premiership crown have most reason to be grateful to the Turkish champions. For weeks it has seemed that United have been putting their domestic campaign on the back burner while they concentrate on Europe. Wednesday was supposed to be the night they tied up that adventure until the quarter-finals in March and redirected their attention to the English game.

Instead, they face Chelsea tomorrow, and Arsenal a week later, knowing they have Ju-ventus looming on 20 November. Even a United victory would secure qualification only if Fenerbabce fail to defeat Rapid Vieona at home the same night. United's European fate is thus unlikely to be settled until 6 December, when they travel to Vienna and the Turks to Turio.

"We are still in a better position than Fenerbabee," Alex Fergusoo said yesterday. The 1-0 defeat was Uoited's first at home in Europe in 40 years and 57 matches, but the United manager added: "Losing the game was more important than losing the record.

Some poor soul was going to kise it eventually, it happened to be me. We're not delighted to lose it, but in a way it is a relief. There were times when the team were worrying more abut losing the record than winning matches. Now it is out of the way."

Tomorrow's match against Chelsea has assumed extra importance, however, in the wake of United's loss of confidence. It may seem a daft suggestion but, at present, United might even struggle to beat their First Division neighbours - not City. but Oldham Athletic. Oldham may still be bottom of the First experienced at losing.

Vo. 31.13. Friday 1 November

ACROSS

R Chap with new prohibition on English poisonous plant

Brilish Museum for initia-

tra? Dismiss objection (7)

12 A cry ill arranged as a song

That's correct (5)
14 Part of poem about beer and the Northern artist [9]

16 Layout of rooms to astonish 5

gold found in South Ameri-

4 A point is found within

tion ceremony (7) 11 Item in authentic orches-

13 Close, embracing me?

most of lactory (9)

savour? Exactly (5)

21 Old French coin? Notice

Left with affronted feeling after going round a French town (4, 8)



Division, but they bave started winning. United are the champious and are bulging with talent and medals, yet they have been losing-and losing hadly. As Jordi Cruyff admitted on Wedoesday night: "When you've been

Cruyff is only 22 yet he is old-er than six of the 14 United players who were involved on Wednesday. United's youthful face, so refreshing, so energising in victory, is a problem in defeat. Confidence is trugile enough in many senior footballers; young men who have little experience of defeat are even more vulnerable and few at United are

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

23 One student with yen to fol-

25 Iron headless rivets ham-

low study eagerly (7) Unwilling to change views long held? That's about

mered with great glee (7)

Tarot mystery sorted out in town (6, 2, 4)

DOWN

Face pain with aplomb (7)

Odd bare rocks supplying foundation for railway (4-3) Like Thomas, Saint 1 accept

that's dubious aver Lord's

Founder of prize is magnanimous, we hear (5) One descring Emperor's

put in danger (7) Top of head bearing most

of attractive coffure (7)

Rebellious cheer stifled in

first appearance (9)

loss of confidence: change the

In the aftermath of defeat, Manchester was humming with rumours of an imminent signing. The long pursuit of Miguel Angel Nadal, Barcelona's Spanish international defeoder, may he ocaring an end. However, it is suggested that he will not be arriving at Old Trafford until 15 December, wheo the Spanish transfer market reopens. In the light of Gary Pallister's injury problems. United may well attempt to speed his release.

United's oeed for a centre-

A test then, for Ferguson. forward is even more pressing out and Ryan Giggs will not be There are three solutions to a than for a centre-half. Eric fit until the Arsenal game at the Cantona again appeared unfaces, change the places, or , happy playing with his back to . that match through suspenchange the routine. He might try goal oo Wedoesday, but Fer- sioo after his dismissal at The guson's options are limited. Dell.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has, understandably, looked jaded receotly. Paul Scholes is on more a leader of the line than Cantona, and Andy Cole is injured. Perhaps Jordi Cruyff could have played there, though he does oot appear a natural centre-forward either. How United missed an Alan Shearer or a Les Ferdinand.

While he awaits new blood Ferguson can shuffle the pack. Again, options are limited. Phil Neville is back, but Pallister is

earliest Roy Keane will miss

One other thing Fergusoo could do - but will not - is change the captaincy, Cantooa has not proved a success in the role. He may have presence, but he is not the inspiration Steve Bruce was, especially when he is struggling with his own game. Yet who else is there? Most of the team are too young or too new. Peter Schmeichel is a possibility, but it is difficult to lead a team from in goal; Denis Irwin is too quiet; David May is unsure of his place. Pal-

lister is the best candidate, but

how often will he be fit? It all makes for a difficult time for Ferguson, but he has come through far worse in his decade at the club. Think of 1990, when his job appeared on the line. Ince, Andrei Kanchelskis and Mark Hughes had left. United's form is now more than a blip, but it is not yet a crisis. Nor is

it likely to become one. A leading bookmaker yes terday halved its odds from 6-1 to 3-1 that Ferguson will not be United's manager on the final day of the season. William Hill also quoted United at 100-1 to be relegated.

More football, page 31

Pallister has knee operation

Manchester United's black Oc-tober came to an end yesterday match in Georgia which is to be announced today. Tony Adams, hut not before the club had suffered one last blow, writes
Glenn Moore. Gary Pallister
went into hospital to have his
troublesome knee examined

just come back from
eration himself, is
ed to be recalled.
United also will and discovered he oeeded a cartilage operation.

It was done immediately using keyhole surgery but the de-fender will be out for at least a month. He was immediately pulled out of the England squad for next Saturday's

the Arsenal defender who has just come back from a knee op-eration himself, is thus expect-

United also withdrew Ryan Giggs from the Welsh squad to play the Netherlands next week-end. Wales are already without Mark Hughes who is suspended. Giggs has been suffering with a calf injury for several weeks and

16 November. The target for Pallister is the Champions' League game away to Rapid Vi-enna on 4 December.

"I have to keep my fingers crossed that nothing happens to Ronny Johnson or David May before the Juventus game," said Alex Ferguson yesterday, touching wood as be did so. "It is a risk but it would have been a bigger risk to have tried to patch up Pally. He might have broken down in the match itself."

has only just resumed training. United hope to have Giggs Brown's fitness gamble

The Scotland manager, Craig
Brown, yesterday recalled Duncan Ferguson and Colin Hendry
with his fingers crossed that both will be fit for a World Cup mission against Sweden. Brown oamed Everton's Fer-

guson and Blackburn's Hendry in a 23-man squad for the Group Four qualifier against Sweden at Ibrox on Sunday 10 November. Both players missed the trip to Latvia and Estonia because of operations, but Brown is prepared to gamble on their fitness. He also named the Rangers goalkeeper Andy Goram, who has missed his club's

last six matches "Having Ferguson available is a boost, as it comes when we could be without other important players," Brown said. "Tve been in touch with Everton, and the word is that Duocan is fit and flying and desperate to

The Rangers trio of Alan McLaren, Stuart McCall and er, Julio Cesar Dely Valdes.

Dodds (Aberdeen), Darren Jackson (Hibernian) and John McGinlay (Bolton), who have shown good club form.

Celtic have sold the former Swansea City and Falkirk defender John Hughes to Hibernian for £300,000. The 32-year-old makes his debut for Hibs at Kilmarnock tonight. Southampton have taken the

former England goalkeeper Chris Woods on loan for four months from the Denver-based Major League Soccer team, Colorado Rapids. The 36-yearold will act as cover for Dave Beasant at The Dell.

The French sports newspaper L'Equipe has reported that. Blackburn Rovers have made an offer for Paris St-Germain's Panamanian international strik-

Blackborn have been linked with a string of top strikers since Alan Shearer's £15m depar-ture to Newcastle, including Brazil's Bebeto and Germany's Oliver Bierhoff and Jürgen Klinsmann, but it is unlikely any deal will be finalised until a new manager has been installed at

Ewood Park.

Tony Yeboah has been given the all-clear to resume light training with Leeds next week. The Ghanaian international has been out of action for seven mouths with damaged knee ligaments. "It's good news and it's a bit earlier than we expected, George Graham, the

Leeds manager, said.
Scottand squad (world Cup Group Four V Sweden, Brux Stadies, Glesgow, 10 fto Germi (Pangars), Leighan (February, Welliam Welliam), Glesgow, 10 fto Barrier, Welliam (Aberdead), Boyd (Cato) Burley (Chiesa), Caldermood (Catorium), Collins (Monaco), Dodds (Mondeet), Fergin

HOME RECORD IN EUROPE 1988-57 European Cup 1982-83 Uofa Cup Pretin Andersons 10-0 (12-0 agg)

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harrock Rovers 3-2 (12-0) 30 (34) 1984-85 Uefa Cap

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